



THE INDEPENDENT

Nº 2122

WEDNESDAY 1 JANUARY 1997

WEATHER: Very cold

(R45p) 40p



1996

reckoning
get Jones...



PROSPEROUS
OUR REALITY



Sign of the times: Henry Gano, kitchen artist at The Dorchester hotel in London, carves out a New Year greeting in ice, a task which required the assistance of 12 colleagues

Photograph: Glynn Griffiths

Blair freezes out activists



Fran Abrams
Political Correspondent

Labour is preparing to cut trade unionists and other activists out of policy-making by dismantling the constituency parties which are their power-base. In a fundamental reform which will remove the main building blocks of the party's grass-roots organisation, the party's leadership is planning to sweep away a system which has existed for more than half a century. The scheme could plunge a newly-elected Labour government into a Clause IV-style battle only weeks after it comes to power. However, Tony Blair is believed to be determined to press ahead with plans to push "One Member One Vote" right to the heart of the party.

The scheme is likely to be published in May or June, and left-wingers are already preparing for a fierce struggle over it at this year's conference. They fear it would allow a Labour government to push through policies which they would never have accepted, such as a complete break with the unions. Under plans to be presented early this year to review groups headed by the party chairman, Tom Sawyer, unions and other affiliated groups, such as the Fabians or the Co-operative movement, would lose their links with Labour's grass roots. General management committees, which run constituency parties, select candidates and send motions to conference, would be replaced by a small executive of four or five people elected

through OMOV, he said. This group would draw up shortlists of candidates from an approved Wulworth Road list for party members to vote on. Members of unions and other groups would only be able to vote if they were Labour Party members. The review groups are also likely to recommend sweeping changes to Labour's annual conference and its National Executive Committee, both of which have been embarrassing show-downs with left-wingers. Already, a new code of conduct has been imposed on Labour MPs, prohibiting them from bringing the party into disrepute. There have been hints that the new code, passed last month by the Parliamentary Labour Party, could be used to

discipline MPs who consistently criticise the leadership. Ken Livingstone, Labour MP for Hammersmith, said that the measures could plunge the party into internal strife just as it takes power. "It would be madness. There would be massive opposition from a large number of MPs, activists and trades unionists," he said. The plans originate from the Labour Co-ordinating Committee, an influential group which claims to have been instrumental in securing "One Member One Vote" (OMOV) and the abolition of Clause IV. It has already published an interim report, "New Labour: A Stakeholders' Party", which sets out its views. Ben Lucas, the chair of the committee, argued that power in the party should

be given to individual members. The committee, whose members include Labour's home affairs spokesman, Jack Straw, and the foreign affairs spokesman, Robin Cook, wants policy to be made through regional and national forums on specific issues. Each member should vote on it, it says. The document argues that the National Executive Committee should no longer make policy and that the annual conference should mirror the US party conventions as showcases which do not "leave things to chance." In future, there should be no more "boring but potentially damaging debates about arcane resolutions". Last year's conference was split by a row over pensions involving the former minister, Barbara Castle.

Mr Lucas said the Labour Party had been built "almost on a Soviet model". Activists who wanted to get things done should pursue issues through other groups, he suggested. "If you are interested in what trades unions are doing then go along to your local trades union. If you are interested in environmental issues, then form a group on the environment." A Labour spokeswoman said the party had nothing to say about the review and no conclusions had yet been reached.

QUICKLY

Hebron deal
Israel and the Palestinians finally agreed on an Israeli redeployment in Hebron, the last West Bank town under occupation. Benjamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat are expected to initial the deal shortly. Page 7

West film outrage
A deal to make a film of the life of the serial killer Frederick West was greeted with outrage by politicians, religious leaders and his relatives. Page 3

CONTENTS

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Arts | 8 |
| Business & City | 13-14 |
| Comment | 10-11 |
| Crosswords | 2-20 |
| Features | 9 |
| Foreign News | 7 |
| Health | 12 |
| Home News | 2-6 |
| Leading Article, Letters | 3-10 |
| Obituaries | 12 |
| Shares | 14 |
| Sport | 16-20 |
| TV & Radio | 19 |
| Weather | 2 |

Saudi nurse retracts confession

Steve Begg
Chief Reporter

One of the two British nurses charged with murdering a fellow nurse in Saudi Arabia has withdrawn the confession that her colleague said she made under duress. Deborah Parry, 41, told the British court, Tim Lamb, to inform the Saudis that she did not stand by her confession when he visited her in prison on Monday,

according to the Saudi-owned newspaper *Al-Hayat*. It also emerged yesterday that the Saudi police considered charging a third British nurse in connection with the murder of Yvonne Gilford, 51, an Australian. She was found stabbed, battered and smothered in her room at the King Fahd Military Medical Centre in Dhahran on 10 December.

So far, Lucille McLanchlan, 31, from Dundee, and Ms Parry, from Hampshire, are the only people charged with the killing. Saudi sources have said they were arrested after money was taken from a cashpoint with Ms Gilford's bank card. However, *Al-Hayat* quoted security sources as saying they had considered charging a third woman. The Saudis believe she was present on two shopping trips when money was taken from Ms Gilford's account.

Diplomatic relations between Britain and Saudi, which have been strained by the affair, are likely to be put under more pressure by the case. The newspaper related details of the nurse's visit to the jail, telling how the women broke down when told that they were likely to be detained for a long time.

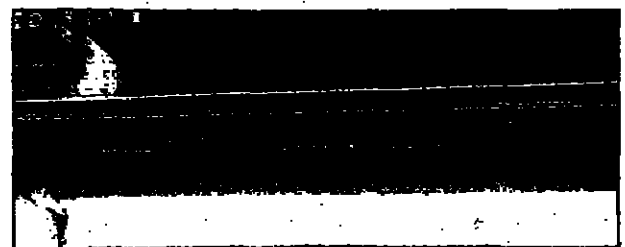
Deborah Parry told the court that she wanted to withdraw her confession, "said one of the paper's editors. The fact that the paper is regarded as a direct channel to the Saudi government, coupled with the fact that details of the meeting could have been passed on only by one of two Saudi officials present, is likely to anger British diplomats. The newspaper said a Saudi religious police officer and an Interior Ministry official were present.

Last night, the Foreign Office refused to comment. A senior source at *Al-Hayat* said: "You are always accusing us of not having freedom of the press and yet when we try to publish the facts... we are criticised." The first details of Ms Parry's troubled life emerged yesterday when her sister, Sandra Ashbee, gave an interview to the *Express*. She said Ms Parry's mother had drowned while on holiday, her brother had died in a motorcycle accident and her father had died from a heart attack. *Islam and the West*, page 11.

Proof The Independent is good enough to eat

David Usher
New York

At last we've made it, at least in New York. Everyone is talking about *The Independent*. I have seen grown men drool. All this is perfectly natural. This is a discomfiting bunch down here in New York, and at three dollars an issue (only one day late), *The Independent* does offer an intellectual value. Although why the prospect of enrolling our pages should lead to profuse salivation was less clear to me, until I discovered that we are talking about *The Independent* as a restaurant. There it is, in the coolest climes of Tribeca on West Broadway, with its simple but oh-so-refined name camouflaged on its awning. The lettering is virtually indistinguishable from that of the masthead above. Its doors have only been



Food for thought: The Independent's exterior. Photograph: Jon Lay

Wilson chose 'traitor' to head spy inquiry

David Walker and John Crossland

The web of Cold War conspiracy spun around Harold Wilson is set to thicken after today's disclosure that as Labour Prime Minister he urged the appointment of Sir Roger Hollis, the suspect MI5 chief, to an official inquiry into the 1966 jail escape of a Soviet spy. This is revealed in government papers at the Public Record Office which are released under the 30-year rule. After the escape of the double agent George Blake from Wandsworth prison in south-west London, Wilson suggested that Hollis - recently retired as head of MI5 - join the inquiry chaired by Lord Mountbatten of Burma, the former chief of the defence staff. But Mountbatten and the Home Secretary, Roy Jenkins, were none too keen. As a mem-

Inside
The 1966 papers
- page 4

London when Wilson was next Prime Minister, in the Seventies. What the 1966 papers show beyond dispute is how distracted the Wilson regime was by security - from Communists in the unions to the reign of terror at No 10 by Wilson's personal security adviser, George Wigg, over leaks to the press. Even in official records MI6, the Secret Intelligence Service, was not referred to by name. Security buffs will pore over the report of the briefing after Blake's escape given by MI6's chief, Sir Dick White, to Wilson and the Opposition leader, Edward Heath. White was complacent, insisting that even if Blake ended up in the Soviet Union (he did), he could not do any more damage to British interests. "There was not therefore any very strong Soviet obligation to him. They might conceivably give him some money and leave him to work out his own future."

Landmark for ancient mariners. Spectacle for modern travellers.

The towering sun temple at Konark in Orissa, India, has gladdened the hearts of mariners hauling up the North East coast of India. Now it provides gasps of admiration as one of India's most vivid architectural treasures - a stupendous 24-wheeled chariot belonging to the sun god, Surya.

A few miles from the capital, Bhubaneswar, you'll find Chitika, India's largest lake, where rare migratory birds wheel in for the winter. As for tiger and leopard, few wildlife sanctuaries can rival Simlipal to the north.

Orissa is one of India's best kept secrets. Let yourself in on it.

For a free brochure call 01233 2119999 or post this coupon to: India Tourist Office, 7 Cork Street, London W1K 2LN.

Name _____
Address _____

india
changes you

سكرا من الاصل

news

Record numbers die in prison

Jason Bennetto
Crime Correspondent

A record number of inmates committed suicide in jails in England and Wales last year, provoking anger among penal reformers who blamed overcrowding and harsh regimes on the rise.

Sixty-four prisoners took their own lives with at least a further 10 suicides in Scottish jails, including three at the country's only establishment for women.

This year's total, announced

yesterday, is four higher than the previous peak in 1994. The death tally has been gradually rising with 33 suicides in England and Wales in 1989.

In the year from April 1990 there were 39 suicides in prisons in England and Wales, rising to 47 in 1993 and 62 in 1994.

Deborah Coles, co-director of Inquest, a pressure group for people who die in custody, said: "It's a chilling reminder of the reality of prison life. My fear is that the continuing trend to increase prison people and combined with increasingly harsh regimes

will lead to an ever growing number of deaths."

Clare Sparks, policy officer of the Prison Reform Trust said: "The record number of suicides is a result of tremendous financial constraints and over-crowding in the prison service in 1996.

"This has led to cuts in important measures such as education, recreation, and the treatment of mentally ill inmates." She added that prisoners on remand, who were particularly vulnerable, were not getting enough attention.

Richard Tilt, the director of

the Prison Service, stressed that because of the increased number of inmates, the number of suicides proportionate to the prison population - which at an average 55,200 this year was 4,200 higher than in 1995 - had actually fallen.

But he added: "I am concerned that, while proportionate to the population suicides have slightly reduced, the level of self-inflicted deaths is still too high."

"We will do everything possible to reduce the number next year. I believe the pre-

ventive strategies we have developed at prisons over the last two years have helped and will continue to do so."

Suicide prevention strategies include risk awareness training for staff, allowing Samaritan volunteers to visit prisoners regularly, and "listener" schemes which involve training prisoners to provide support for other inmates at risk.

In Scotland, where last year's figures have yet to be released, the problem of prison suicides has been highlighted by the spate of deaths at Cornton Vale

women's prison in Stirling.

An investigation has begun into the latest death, that of Yvonne Gilmour, 22, from Glasgow, who was found dead on Christmas Eve. Despite being on suicide watch, which meant she was regularly observed by staff in her cell, she still managed to hang herself with a bed sheet.

A report into previous deaths described conditions at the prison as a "mixture between a casualty clearing station and a psychiatric ward".

Floating prison, page 6

significant shorts

Legal aid for overdose baby's parents

A couple who are planning legal action against a hospital after their baby was given an overdose of morphine have been granted legal aid.

Kieren Lacombe was six weeks old when he was given 10 times the correct dose of the pain-killer during a hernia operation at Treiliske hospital, Cornwall, because his prescription had been misread. He turned blue and had fits.

A brain scan revealed no abnormalities, but the family's solicitor, Philip Snell, said yesterday that it would not be known for several years whether there was any long-term brain damage.

A medical report will also be prepared on Kieren's mother Julie, who lives near Redruth. She was at the hospital and suffered psychological trauma.

British Airways extinguishes cigarettes

Smokers face a further challenge from today as 90 per cent of British Airways flights - including Concorde - become smoke free.

More than 350 additional daily flights to Africa, Europe, the Middle and Far East and North America will join the current 750 non-smoking flights.

British Airways' chief executive, Bob Ayling, said: "More than eight out of 10 passengers now request non-smoking seats and the numbers are growing."

Smoking is being retained on certain routes where there is demand: Spain, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Philippines, Pakistan, Latin America, Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria and Azerbaijan. BA will continue to sell duty-free cigarettes on its flights.

Hogmanay off the rails

Hogmanay travellers in Scotland yesterday faced disruption as rail crews went on strike. ScotRail said fewer than 50 per cent of RMT conductors and ticket examiners obeyed the latest strike call, enabling it to run 80 per cent of services.

The union said that 50 per cent of trains were affected. The walkout followed the disciplining of 17 union members involved in an earlier series of one-day stoppages over productivity and other issues.

Cullen wins promotion

Lord Cullen, the Dunblane inquiry judge, has been promoted to become Scotland's second most senior judge. He will become Lord Justice Clerk, succeeding Lord Ross, who is retiring.

The appointment, announced by the Prime Minister's office, carries a salary of £121,190, a rise of more than £4,000 on the £117,000 salary of senior Scottish judges.

Sex-act disc withdrawn

A store chain has stopped selling a computer games disc after it was found to contain an explicit sex scene.

The HMV record group is clearing the CD-ROM from its shelves and yesterday offered refunds to customers.

A woman who bought the 3,000-game Spectra CD 1996 for £7.99 in HMV in Manchester discovered a sequence depicting a woman performing a sex act on a man. An HMV spokesman apologised to anyone who had been offended by the disc, which is from Germany.

Christie brother inquest opens

An inquest was opened yesterday into the death of the brother of the Olympic sprinter Linford Christie.

Westminster Coroner's Court in central London heard that Russell Christie, 34, of Shepherd's Bush, west London, died from a stab wound to his neck.

No members of the Christie family were present at the hearing, which was adjourned.

A man has been charged with murder.

Harding fortune goes to wife and mistress

Vanessa Thorpe

The £200m left by Matthew Harding, the chairman of Chelsea Football Club who died in a helicopter crash while returning from an away match at Bolton last October, is to be divided between his children, his wife and his girlfriend.

His will, published yesterday, makes no mention of the football club in which Mr Harding invested more than £40m during his lifetime.

The inheritance will be divided according to instructions left with two executors, Mark Killick and Margaret Nugent. Their instructions are to include provision for his twin sons by his wife Ruth and for Ella, his daughter by girlfriend Vicky Jaramillo.

In the will Mr Harding, aged 42 at the time of his death, also names Jessica, Ms Jaramillo's daughter from a previous relationship.

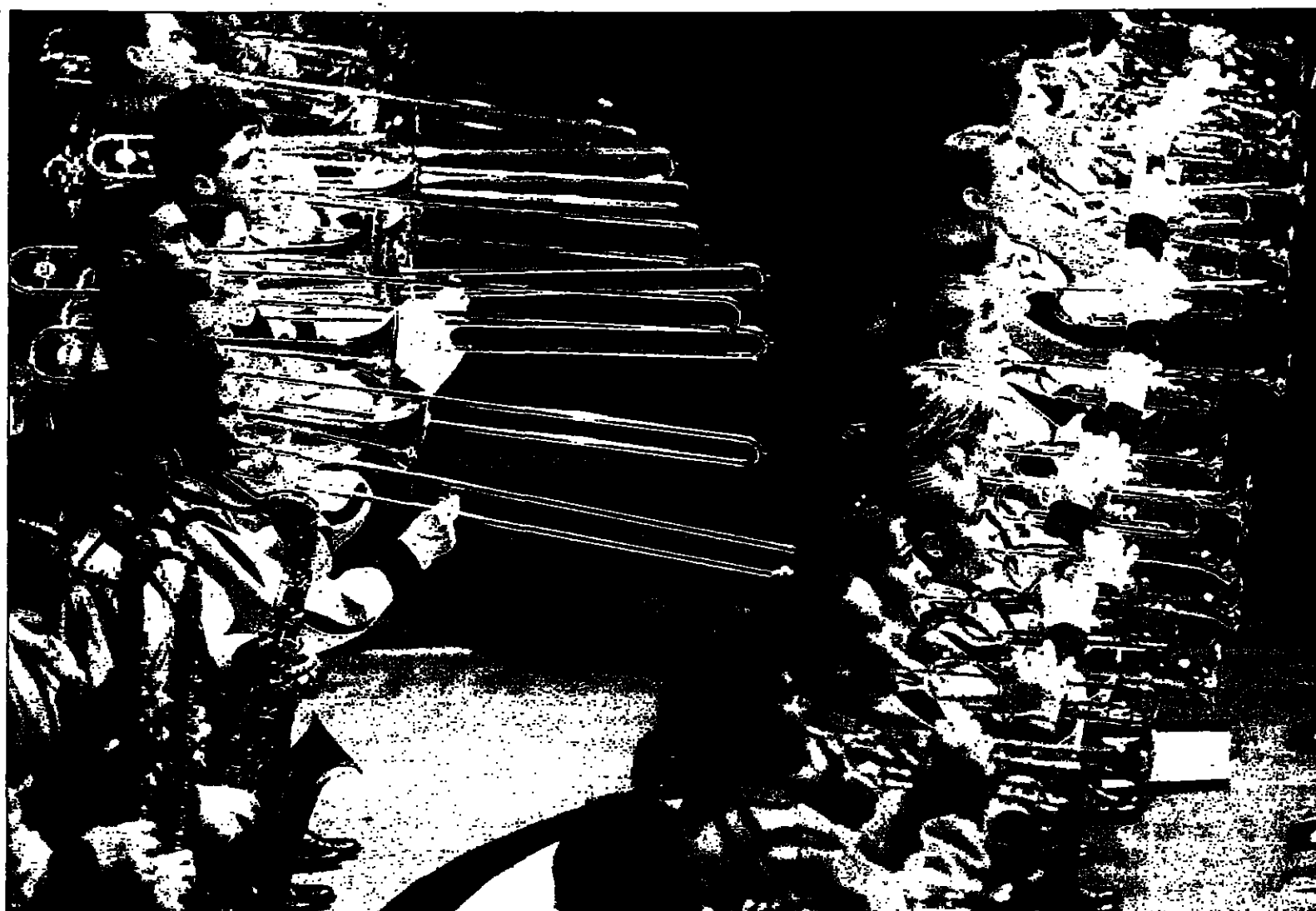
The shareholders in his former business, The Benfield Group, will also benefit. Mr Harding organised a successful management buy-out of the company in 1988.

The will was witnessed by England football coach Glenn Hoddle and by a London taxi driver called Grant Davis.

It bears the date of 22 May 1996, exactly two months before the fatal accident in Cheshire which also killed four other men.

Chelsea FC may be left with financial problems if Benfield decide to sell the £50m shares held in Chelsea Village, the company which owns the club.

Mr Harding also owned the £16.5m freehold on the Stamford Bridge ground, in south-west London, paid out for the new North Stand, and regularly made cash available for buying new players.



Blow for youth: The Waubesa Valley High School Marching Warriors Band, from Illinois, playing at Wembley Grand Hall for the London Parade Festival, a series of concerts by young musicians from around the world. It culminates in a parade in the capital today. Photograph: Keith Dobney

Protect the weak, urges Carey



Dr Carey: 'It is a good time to search our souls'

The Archbishop of Canterbury called on society to make an "uncompromising commitment to protect the weak and vulnerable", in his New Year address broadcast today.

Dr George Carey also recalled the Dunblane tragedy in which 16 infants and one teacher were killed and other crimes against children and adults in his remarks made five minutes after midnight, and shown on BBC1 at 1am.

Dr Carey anticipated the general election and reflected on the kind of society that we have become - and the kind we

wish to be - as the end of the century approaches. He said: "In looking back, there will be many who will be deeply thankful that 1996 has ended."

"For those of us who love children, 1996 will forever speak of Dunblane and some of the other terrible crimes committed against young children and adults alike. It is a reminder that at the very heart of a decent society there must be an uncompromising commitment to protecting the weak and vulnerable."

"None of us knows what 1997 will bring. Nationally, we shall be facing a general elec-

tion. Individually, all kinds of challenges lie ahead, and many uncertainties."

"As we look to the millennium, many of us are asking questions about the kind of people and the kind of society we want to be. It is a good time to search our souls."

Dr Carey said he remembered the 1,400th anniversary of Augustine - the first Archbishop of Canterbury in 597 - as he looked at the paintings in the chapel at Lambeth Palace, but he also drew attention to the modern pictures "to remind us that the Church today is for

all people of every race and continent".

The images show outstretched hands praying and the Archbishop said: "Hands lifted in prayer must result in hands reaching out to all people with the love of God."

Dr Carey ended with a prayer for the New Year: "Eternal God, I place myself into your hands this coming year. May we walk together, hand in hand, and in my actions may your will be done. Amen."

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

| | | | |
|------------|-------|-------------|-------|
| Austria | £5.00 | Norway | £5.00 |
| Belgium | £4.00 | Italy | £4.00 |
| Canada | £3.00 | Madagascar | £3.00 |
| Cyprus | £2.00 | Malta | £3.00 |
| Denmark | £1.00 | Norway | £2.00 |
| Ireland | £1.00 | Portugal | £3.00 |
| France | £1.00 | Spain | £3.00 |
| Germany | £1.00 | Sweden | £3.00 |
| Greece | £1.00 | Switzerland | £4.00 |
| Luxembourg | £1.00 | USA | £3.00 |

OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTIONS

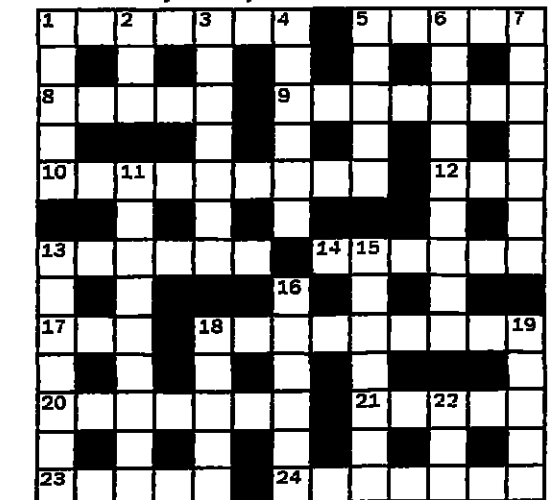
Ar mail, 13 weeks Europe £30.75; Zone 1 (Middle East, Africa, Asia and India) £34.00; Zone 2 (Far East and Australasia) £38.75. To order please send cheque payable to Independent Newspapers Ltd, 43 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF or telephone 0171-389 8288. Credit cards welcome.

BACK ISSUES

Back issues of the Independent are available from Historic Newspapers, telephone 01958 940370.

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No. 3184 Wednesday 1 January



ACROSS

- 1 Diamond shape (7)
- 5 Girl's name (5)
- 8 Indian currency (5)
- 9 Fundamental (7)
- 10 Person of uncompromising views (9)
- 12 Drink small amounts (3)
- 13 Sensitive plant (6)
- 14 Escapade (6)
- 17 Hawaiian garland (3)
- 18 Was sorry about (9)
- 20 Bely (7)
- 21 Likeness (5)
- 23 Midlands city (5)
- 24 Without guile (7)

DOWN

- 1 Move clumsily (5)
- 2 Type of fastener (3)
- 3 Sewing implements (7)
- 4 Mission (6)
- 5 Shrub (5)
- 6 Non-stop (9)
- 7 Oval (7)
- 11 Quantity left over (9)
- 12 Kind of duck (7)
- 15 Pharmacist (7)
- 16 Business to be conducted (6)
- 18 Card game (5)
- 19 Clothe (5)
- 22 Beverage (3)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:
ACROSS: 1 River, 4 Logical (Biological), 8 Laundry, 9 Upper, 10 Arque, 11 Estuary, 13 Earl, 15 Saturn, 17 Avenue, 20 Name, 22 Conical, 24 Niche, 26 Infer, 27 Opulent, 28 Belated, 29 Enter, DOWN: 1 Ballads, 2 Young, 3 Red deer, 4 Larder, 5 Gault, 6 Captain, 7 Lorry, 12 Stars, 14 Anna, 16 Tumble, 18 Venture, 19 Elector, 21 Almond, 22 Climb, 23 Egret, 25 Chest.

Notes

Weather forecast

forecast for today

Another bitterly cold day over England and Wales with subzero temperatures. Sheltered western areas should stay mostly dry and sunny but snow showers are expected in eastern and southern counties, but these should die out this afternoon. Scotland and N Ireland will be bright but cold with light snow showers near eastern coasts, and a band of steady rain will reach northern Scotland this afternoon.

outlook for the next few days

Tomorrow will also be very cold in all parts with severe frost early and late. Some patchy light sleet or snow will affect Scotland and Northern Ireland, while England and Wales have sunny spells and just a few coastal snow showers. On Friday and Saturday many places will be dry and bright but it will remain cold with hard frosts, and there may be some wintry showers in eastern counties of Scotland and England.

High tides

| | AIJ | HT | PM | HT |
|--------------------|-------|------|-------|------|
| London | 5:50 | 6:4 | 18:30 | 6:3 |
| Liverpool | 3:27 | 8:1 | 15:47 | 8:0 |
| Astonmouth | 11:15 | 11:2 | 23:35 | 11:0 |
| Hull (Albert Dock) | 10:30 | 6:6 | 22:34 | 6:5 |
| Greenock | 5:08 | 3:2 | 17:05 | 3:3 |
| Dun Laoghaire | 3:55 | 3:5 | 16:15 | 3:6 |

air quality

| | NO ₂ | SO ₂ |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Yesterday's Readings | | |
| London | Good | Good |
| S. England | Good | Good |
| Wales | Good | Good |
| C. England | Good | Good |
| N. England | Good | Good |
| Scotland | Good | Good |
| N. Ireland | Good | Moderate |

Outlook for today

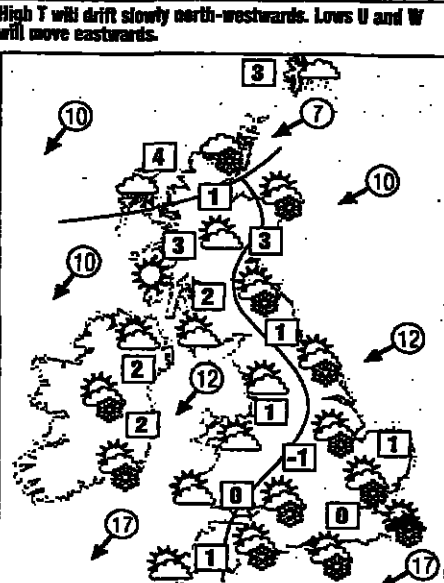
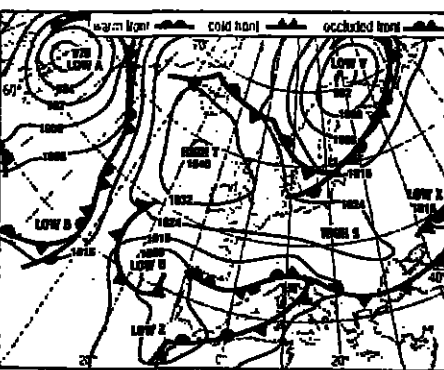
| | NO ₂ | SO ₂ |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| London | Good | Good |
| S. England | Good | Good |
| Wales | Good | Good |
| C. England | Good | Good |
| N. England | Good | Good |
| Scotland | Good | Good |
| N. Ireland | Good | Moderate |

lighting-up times

| | 16:02 | 10 | 8:06 |
|------------|-------|----|------|
| London | 16:02 | 10 | 8:06 |
| Bristol | 16:12 | 10 | 8:16 |
| Cardiff | 16:05 | 10 | 8:18 |
| Birmingham | 16:01 | 10 | 8:25 |
| Manchester | 15:49 | 10 | 8:31 |
| Newcastle | 15:54 | 10 | 8:47 |
| Glasgow | 16:09 | 10 | 8:46 |
| Belfast | 16:09 | 10 | 8:46 |

British Isles weather

| | C | F | | C | F | | C | F |
|-------------|---|----|----------|----|----|------------|----|----|
| Aberdeen | 2 | 35 | Brighton | -1 | 30 | Exeter | -1 | 30 |
| Anglo | 1 | 34 | Cardiff | -1 | 30 | Glasgow | -1 | 30 |
| Armagh | 1 | 34 | Cardiff | -1 | 30 | London | 1 | 34 |
| Belfast | 1 | 34 | Cardiff | -1 | 30 | Liverpool | 1 | 34 |
| Birmingham | 1 | 34 | Cardiff | -1 | 30 | Manchester | 1 | 34 |
| Blackpool | 1 | 34 | Cardiff | -1 | 30 | Newcastle | 1 | 34 |
| Bournemouth | 1 | 34 | Cardiff | -1 | 30 | Oxford | 1 | 34 |
| | | | Cardiff | -1 | 30 | Plymouth | 1 | 34 |



| | Sun rises | Sun sets | Moon rises | Moon sets |
|--------|-----------|----------|------------|-----------|
| London | 8:06 | 16:02 | 0:14 | 11:23 |

Sun and moon

If you are planning a baby, start here



Worldwide studies show that even with a good diet, extra specific nutrients may be very important - during and even before pregnancy. FOLIC ACID is vital to the development of your unborn baby. But it is not the only nutrient which is essential during pregnancy.

Pregnacare contains the recommended level of 400mcg folic acid, along with

a careful balance of 15 other vitamins and minerals to safeguard your requirements during pregnancy.

Pregnacare replaces your usual multivitamin. It is recommended from several weeks before conception, right through to the end of breast feeding. So, if you're already pregnant, or could be soon, start with Pregnacare right now.

Pregnacare®
ONE-A-DAY CAPSULES

Developed by experts for before and during pregnancy

Available from Boots stores, Tesco, Superdrug, chemists, health food stores and Holland & Barrett.
£4.95 per month's supply.
For more information please contact VITABIONICS Ltd, Tel: 0181 963 0999



For more information on vitamins and pregnancy, please call the specialist helpline provided by Pregnacare.
Tel: 0800 225 228

Pensioner's death after £11m win and troubles of others confirm critics' dire warnings



Mukhtar Mohidin The lottery's first big winner. Initially fled the country



Lee Ryan Win coincided with 18-month sentence for handling stolen cars



Mark Gardiner Ex-wives and girlfriends went into print after his £22m joint win

Fred West film deal is condemned as sick

Glenda Cooper

A deal to make a film of the life of the serial killer Frederick West was greeted with outrage last night by politicians and religious leaders, who condemned it as an insult to the relatives of his victims.

The Official Solicitor, Peter Harris, confirmed that he had entered into a contract with the Portman Entertainment Group which gives it non-documentary film, television, video and ancillary rights to archive material from the West estate.

West's elder brother Doug said yesterday that the plan was "sick" and would do nothing to help the relatives of the Cromwell Street victims to recover from the tragedy.

Politicians urged the Attorney General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, to intervene to stop the sale.

Much of the material given to Portman Entertainment, one of the oldest independent television production companies in Britain, was derived from the police inquiry which led to West being charged with 12 murders.

He hanged himself on New Year's Day two years ago before the trial could take place but his wife Rosemary was later convicted on 10 murder counts and sentenced to life imprisonment.

The material includes many hours of tape recordings with the police, copies of West's favourite pornographic films and pages of his memoirs written during his time in Winson Green prison before the trial.

The Official Solicitor was appointed by the courts to look after the interests of the West children and has the responsibility of maximising the financial return on the estate.

No details have been given about financial aspects of the film deal but it is believed to be in four figures, with extra payable if a film goes into production.

Portman Entertainment's past successes include acquiring

the British rights to the Australian soap *Home and Away*, and the mini-series *A Woman of Substance* starring Liam Neeson and Deborah Kerr.

The contract also includes an option agreement to *An Evil Love*, a biography of Frederick West by the former Fleet Street journalist Geoffrey Wansell.

The Bishop of Gloucester, the Right Rev David Bentley, said yesterday he "deplored" the news that a film could be made and Douglas French, Conservative MP for Gloucester, said: "This is another sordid example of commercial exploitation of tragic events which the residents of Gloucester would prefer to forget."

Alex Carlile, Liberal Demo-

crat spokesman on justice and legal affairs, urged Sir Nicholas to step in to stop the sale of the film rights.

"It is deeply shocking that the Official Solicitor, who is a government official, is entering, in his public role, into a contract for the sale of material which is derived from one of the greatest public mischiefs of modern times," he said.

Doug West said: "The relatives of the victims have had enough. I have had enough. I was hoping to have a good New Year and put all this behind me. Now it will all come up again. It's a bit sick as far as I am concerned. Let's hope the idea drops off and the film never comes out."

All part of life's lottery

Louise Jury

Twenty months ago Ernie Bailey, a widower, won £11m on the National Lottery. Today he is dead.

Already in poor health, the 63-year-old former factory worker put on weight, continued to smoke, and was found lifeless in the bed of his new luxury home on Sunday.

Yesterday his family denied claims that he had binged himself to death on beer and take-aways. "Ernie had had three heart attacks and simply didn't have the strength to binge," said a family friend, Terry Latham.

"If anyone knew his medical history, they would know that his death wouldn't come as a big shock. He was an ill man. As far as the family is concerned, Ernie died in his sleep and that's all there is to it."

But in the wake of a series of sad stories which must have made the lottery organisers Camelot despair, his death is a reminder that winning can be a burden as well as a boon.

Like the misfortune befalling couples who speak of their

happiness to *Hello!* magazine, the curse of the lottery comes down as if that bright blue promotional finger is really wagging a warning: It could be you.

When Ernie Bailey won his fortune in April last year on a ticket shared with his younger son, 23-year-old Derek, he did not immediately head for the Caribbean or Florida as others have done. He packed eight of his family into a caravan for six and headed for North Wales.

He did abandon the crime-ridden Castle Vale council estate in Birmingham and moved to a luxury bungalow in Little Aston Park, five miles away in the more upmarket Sutton Coldfield.

But he brought his older son Mark, 31, into the money not by giving him a million or two but employing him as chauffeur for his new range of smart cars at a reported salary of £500-a-week. He employed Mark's wife, Tracey, as his cleaner.

Mr Bailey senior did, however, buy the couple a bungalow just along from his in the same cul-de-sac.

Yesterday, four pints of milk and a bottle of orange juice



Ernie Bailey Won £11m in April 1995. Found dead in his bed on Sunday

stood uncollected outside the new millionaire's home where the curtains stayed tightly drawn. Snow covered his BMW, a Renault Espace van and a Chevrolet. He had

enjoyed them for less than two years.

Whether his new-found wealth encouraged him to overindulge cannot be known. But critics of the lottery argue

that the dramatic change in lifestyle a jackpot brings can be devastating.

Claire Rayner, the agony aunt, said: "Over the years when people have said to me, 'I want to be rich and famous', I've said, 'Doing what?'. It's very hard to describe to people how destructive that can be."

"Some people handle it terribly well. But in general the most terrible thing to happen to a human being is change. This is why people have problems when they get married or pass exams. An ambition achieved is like a death."

She guessed Mr Bailey probably lost more than he gained through his win. "If the man did drink too much, it was probably an attempt to comfort himself for what he had lost. I hate the lottery in its present form. It's lovely to give people the chance of £10,000 or, at a pinch, £100,000. But you shouldn't have enough to move too far out of the life you've got."

Certainly other lottery winners have had their problems. Mukhtar Mohidin, the Blackburn factory worker who won £17.9m, initially fled the country, then temporarily split from his wife while his family feuded over the spoils.

Robbie Woods, a 24-year-old garage mechanic, found himself besieged by gold-diggers. Manny Mercer, 54, had a heart attack in the excitement of becoming a millionaire and the jackpot win by 32-year-old Lee Ryan coincided with an 18-month jail sentence for handling stolen cars.

Most notoriously of all, Mark Gardiner and Paul Maddison shared a record-breaking £22.6m jackpot which put a strain on their friendship and produced a string of ex-wives, girlfriends and friends queuing up to curse their luck.

Yet some remain down-to-earth. The 33 members of the Camden Housing Project in London who shared a £10m jackpot returned to work with a better class of biscuit the only visible sign of their success.

A Camelot spokeswoman said: "We have 30 million people playing every week and it's a fun pastime for them. Most people who win are deliriously happy. They just can't wait to get their ticket in and claim the money."

Blur turn against Blair...



Sticking to business: Damon Albarn (left) recording for Blur, Britpop's former crown princes, who are ready for a comeback with a new album after giving centre stage to the pop-star antics of Oasis, led by Liam Gallagher (right)

...in new battle of the bands

David Lister
Arts News Editor

Paul McCartney's knighthood seems to have inspired a new respectability in rock music. Blur, once Britpop's brightest lights and arch rivals to Oasis, have emerged from a year's exile extolling asceticism and maturity - and despising the Labour leader Tony Blair.

While Oasis had a well-documented year of global success and laddish behaviour, Blur retreated from the limelight. They have returned as new men.

Damon Albarn, the heart-throb leader of the band, is disdaining of the pop-star antics of his rivals. Instead, he advocates studious concentration, cates dubious only in moderation, and drinking only in moderation, if at all. And he has become the first rock star to urge

the virtues of a coalition government.

It is barely a year ago that Blur seemed likely to outshine Oasis. It was Blur not Oasis who won the much-hyped battle for the first number one single from their respective new albums in 1995. But after that Oasis's fame erupted, and Blur retreated into splendid isolation, seemingly forgotten by their fans. In the Radio 1 listeners' poll this week, Oasis had two times in the listeners' all-time top 10, Blur had none.

Now, shortly to release a new album, the former crown prince of Britpop are back. The band's front man, Albarn, remains sparing of speech, but what he does say signifies a new respectability that could see him following in the steps of Sir Paul McCartney in 30 years' time.

Asked by *Q* magazine how he would be voting in the general election, Albarn says: "Blair has a worryingly conservative streak and he's taken his own personality so far into the arena of appeasement he's no longer a valid leader of a socialist party. But I will be voting for him, and Labour will get in. Just don't expect any changes, that's all. We'd do better with a coalition government."

On the subject of rock stars behaving like rock stars he is quick to point out his own outfit's new asceticism. "Graham has stopped drinking completely," he says of one fellow band member. "I still drink but in small bouts, although I've never really done it to excess."

Pointedly, he stresses that the year-long making of the band's new record required "concentration" and a rejection of the

tabloid antics of certain other groups. He says: "It wouldn't have been possible to make this record if we'd been visible, or doing big gigs, or splashed over the tabloids. It required a lot of concentration."

And Albarn even places himself in the vanguard of the middle-aged, firing a broadside at one of the most popular rock stars in the world, Bono of U2, sounding for all the world like a parent in the Sixties, as he accuses Bono of not being able to sing tastefully.

Asked if he is looking forward to the new U2 album, Albarn replies: "I'd like a lot of U2 tunes if they'd just take the vocal off. I have a problem with Bono's voice. The rest of them make tasteful music... He'd be a lot more respected by musicians if he'd tone down those mannerisms."

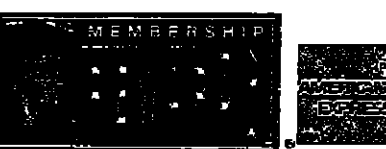
Are you still making pointless purchases?

What's the point?

Don't let valuable rewards slip through your fingers. You can gain Membership Rewards Points on virtually every purchase you make with an American Express Credit, Charge or Corporate Card - whether you're shopping in the High Street or spending abroad. Once you're enrolled, it's one of the fastest and easiest ways to earn complimentary flights, hotel nights, meals at restaurants and more.

To find out how we can help you do more, call now:

0800 700 767



Cards

THE 1966 PAPERS

MI5 fuelled fears of Communists in unions

Public Record Office files released today confirm the suspicion that the Security Service, MI5, extensively penetrated the British trade union movement in the Sixties. Secret reports from agents convinced the Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, of Communist Party involvement before he made his celebrated remark about the 1966 seamen's strike being masterminded by a "tightly knit group of politically motivated men". But the official record of Cabinet discussions shows that

Labour ministers had deep sympathy with the seamen – whose ranks included the present deputy leader of the Labour Party, John Prescott. In Cabinet they even admitted the strike had been precipitated by the shipowners. In private they said the finding of the court of inquiry into the strike – which the government backed in public – gave the seamen less than they deserved.

However, ministers were also worried that seamen were being misled by the *ad hoc* nego-

tiating committee putting their case to shipowners. In extended sessions at No 10, Wilson met both groups during the dispute in an effort to mediate. But he had been warned by the Security Service that one of the committee, Gordon Norris, was seeing the industrial organiser of the Communist Party of Great Britain, Bert Ramelson, more or less daily "to plan the next move in the strike and the outcome of discussions at the executive of the National Union of Seamen".

Reports by David Walker and John Crossland

Edward Heath, leader of the Opposition, attacked Wilson for alleging a conspiracy without naming names. In response, Wilson offered him a secret briefing courtesy of MI5. At it he told him of a "close correlation between decisions taken at meetings of the Communist Party, the commentary of the *Morning Star* [the CP newspaper] the next day and the decision subsequently reached by the National Union of Seamen".

For instance, the key decision to reject the court of inquiry report was taken the day before the report was published and the Communist Party had decided that the Executive Committee of the National Union of Seamen should be persuaded at its meeting on the following day to continue the strike. The executive committee reached the decision the Communists wanted. Earlier that year Wilson had been told of Communist influ-

ence in the National Union of Railwaymen – information secured by an MI5 informant, whose name has been blanked out from the official papers now on public view. A threatened railway strike had been called off at the last moment.

In February, a Home Office official minuted Wilson's principal private secretary, "From the outset [the Communists] viewed the dispute in predominantly political terms and their objective was to discredit and bring to a halt the current in-

come policy. The problem facing the Communist minority on the NUR Executive Council was to retain sufficient non-Communist support to ensure that the strike notice was maintained throughout the negotiations in the hope that the government's will might ultimately be broken."

He continued: "The Party started from a position of reasonable strength. Quite apart from the fact that it was dealing with an issue popular with railwaymen it had two of its

members on the eight-man negotiating committee, including the chairman, Dan Kelly, and its influence with the district councils meant that it could rely on a flow of militant resolutions to strengthen any wavering on the executive council itself."

The agent concluded: "In retrospect, the party views its efforts as a well-fought rearguard action in a worthwhile fight. It believes that the government and the railway board have bought nothing more than time."

Marcia and the war of the photocopier

During 1966 Harold Wilson's political secretary, Marcia Williams (now Baroness Falkender), engaged in a pitched battle with his civil service private secretary Derek Mitchell over office facilities while she looks to the press produced a constant stream of self-exculpating memoranda to the Prime Minister from officials and party colleagues.

Ostensibly the civil servants looked after official business while Mrs Williams – who had been positively vetted by the Security Service – looked after Wilson's party and constituency work. Both sides bled each other.

Barely a year after Labour took power in October 1964 Mr Mitchell was penning pompous notes asking if it was not time Mrs Williams got her own "political" photocopier. His assistant, Jane Parsons, evidently kept a surreptitious eye on the Rank Xerox 914. In one note she alleged that a "considerable amount" of party political work was being done on the copier.

At the beginning of the 1966 election campaign, No 10 staff proposed that use of the official machine would be charged to Transport House, Labour HQ. If Transport House were to supply its own copier, "security drills" would have to ensure "it cannot be used to make quick copies of classified papers".

The official files are stuffed with memos from civil servants and party officials to the Prime Minister denying they had talked to journalists and so

were the source of leaks. Even Wilson's security adviser, the Paymaster General, George Wigg, felt the need to submit a long typewritten memo to Wilson in July 1966 explaining who he had and who he had not seen.

Wigg was embarrassed because he had seen a *Sunday Times* journalist, Stephen Fay, who in turn denied he was the source of a leak from the conversation to *Private Eye*, which sought to pooh-pooh Harold Wilson's suggestion that Communists were behind industrial unrest in Britain that year.

Another story, about City-side dock workers getting a pay and conditions deal which appeared to break the prevailing pay norm provoked a flurry of denials. Trevor Lloyd Hughes, the civil service press officer at No 10, sent a memo to George Wigg in his capacity as security chief listing all his dealings with the press. The party press officer based at No 10, Gerald Kaufman (now a Labour MP), went through his diary before coming up with a clincher. He could not have briefed the press on the relevant day because he was away from the office that day "observing the Jewish New Year".

Mr Wilson went on to authorise the compilation of "source books", which indexed press cuttings by code, together with lists of journalists, "so the subject could be traced from beginning to end and ministers and MPs statements can be examined as well as journalists."

Sweeteners for Catholic schools

The same Labour government that in 1966 looked with "benevolent neutrality" on reforms to the abortion and sexual offences law also increased the rate of grant to Roman Catholic schools.

Prime Minister Harold Wilson, himself one of the most cautious members of the Cabinet when it came to making government time available for private members' bills to reform the laws on homosexuality, urged his Secretary of State for Education, Tony Crosland, to cultivate the Catholic and Anglican bishops.

The papers show this was something Crosland, otherwise renowned as a free thinking liberal, was happy to do. After conversations with the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool Crosland proposed increasing the state grant to Catholic schools to 80 per cent and making new grants to Catholic training colleges.

His reasoning was that the money would sweeten the church authorities towards comprehensive schools.

Cabinet discussion of the year's great "social legislation" (abortion law reform was begun in 1966 but completed in 1967) was minimal. Most discussion took place, if at all, in Cabinet committees rather than the full Cabinet. Wilson emerges as a cautious voice, saying for instance that he was "in no way committed to giving extra time for homosexual law reform". In a note to Douglas Houghton,

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and chairman of the Cabinet's social services committee, Wilson wondered whether they needed to "rush" their thinking about allowing local social services departments to dispense contraceptive advice.

Wilson, MP for the Merseyside seat of Huyton, was clearly concerned about Catholic opinion. But the Cabinet committee was enthusiastic. "The fact that one section of the community would not wish to use facilities was not sufficient reason for withholding them from others." A report from the Church of England Board of Social Responsibility in favour of extending the availability of contraception helped.

But in language that would not be considered politically correct today, Houghton said he was in favour of more contraception because "the problems of our social services are aggravated by the calls made upon them by the families of feckless, sub-normal and irresponsible parents".

But for all its reputation for social reform the Wilson government backed away from two measures discussed in the social services Cabinet committee. One was to redistribute money spent on family allowances to ensure it went only to the needy. The second was to replace "national assistance" (as income support was then called) with a universal "income guarantee" clawed back from the better off through income tax.



Source of tension: Wilson and Lady Falkender in 1975. As his political secretary she engaged in battle with official Downing Street staff



Wembley final: Manager Alf Ramsey intervenes in a shirt exchange between teams after England's World Cup victory over Argentina



Devastation: Scene of the tragedy at Aberfan after Pantglas Junior School was engulfed by a mountain of rain-soaked coal slurry

Cabinet plan for ads on BBC radio

A meeting of the Wilson Cabinet approved in principle the idea that the BBC should take advertising on one of its radio channels to bail it out of a financial crisis.

It was only after several further meetings and some spirited lobbying from the BBC's then vice-chairman, Lord Fulton, and its director-general, Hugh Greene, that the proposal was dropped. Labour in those days was attracted by advertising as a source of revenue for public purposes.

At a January Cabinet it was proposed that council rates could be kept down by giving councils a percentage of the proceeds from setting up local commercial radio stations. The proposal was deferred pending the conclusions of a large-scale review of councils.

US tapped for funding of OU

Lack of money to pay for Harold Wilson's brainchild, the Open University, prompted the Prime Minister to suggest American firms and foundations should be approached for donations.

He asked his legal adviser, Lord Goodman, to make soundings. Wilson himself said he would contact the president of the Ford Foundation, the former White House official McGeorge Bundy.

Murder for eastern stars

The might of Her Majesty's diplomatic service was mobilised to ensure a new generation of British ambassadors abroad – pop stars – encountered no problems.

From Japan a chargé d'affaires anxiously reported rumours of an assassination attempt on the Beatles and said he proposed to do all he could to make a success of a forthcoming tour by the Rolling Stones.

Argentina's bitter Cup

Foreign Office files report how England's victory against Argentina in the 1966 World Cup provoked an anti-British backlash in Buenos Aires, with the British embassy receiving numbers of "abusive" calls. After an ill-tempered game, the England manager, Alf Ramsey, stopped the players swapping shirts and called the Argentines "animals".

Aberfan crisis

Alf Robens, chairman of the National Coal Board at the time of the Aberfan disaster, only seems to have survived thanks to his own marked reluctance to resign and Wilson's reluctance to fire him.

Other ministers felt that he should carry the can after a Tribunal of Inquiry report which Wilson himself said was a "damaging indictment of the NCB".

Currency union with US floated

Desperation over sterling led the Wilson government in 1966 to propose a currency union with the United States.

At a critical Cabinet meeting called to discuss emergency measures to combat speculation against sterling in July that year, Harold Wilson floated the idea of a "link between sterling and the dollar" based, at first, on a floating exchange rate between the two currencies overseen by a joint commission.

The Americans were none too enthusiastic. According to Wilson, reporting back to the Cabinet in August after a trip

to see President Lyndon Johnson in Washington, the US said the British should set up a committee to examine transatlantic monetary links.

The planned link-up with the US indicates the extent of the Wilson government's desperation when, in the wake of the seamen's dispute and renewed hostilities in Vietnam, sterling started to plummet.

Under pressure from colleagues Wilson even agreed a dramatic Cabinet "think-in" on whether the pound should be devalued – since coming to office in October 1964 he and

Chancellor James Callaghan had tried to smother all talk of cutting the pound's value.

Hidden in a secret annex to the main Cabinet papers, the report of the debate on 19 July takes an unprecedented six pages and is likely to be read by historians as one of the crucial turning points in the post-war history of Britain.

Though Wilson said "if the choice lay simply between devaluation and maintenance of full employment he would prefer to devalue" he insisted there was an alternative – deflation. An unnamed Cabinet member

said the cuts would have to be savage. "A fundamental weakness in the government's present policy was the fact we were seeking to maintain a position in the world which our economy could not support... the only practical course was to abandon a very substantial part of our overseas [sic] commitment."

The Cabinet was also told it should cut "unproductive expenditure, eg on social benefits, health and housing until our rate of growth was adequate to support the burden of the social expenditure we wished to undertake."

STROUD & SWINDON
MORTGAGE COMPANY LIMITED

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE INTEREST RATE CHANGE

The variable rate of mortgage interest will increase by 0.26% from 1st January 1997.

This notice is applicable to borrowers whose mortgage payments are updated annually.

The effect of this change will be included in the Annual Update of payments in January 1998.

Head Office: Rowcroft, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL5 3BG. Tel: (01453) 757011

Minus 4 (too cold for an ostrich to bury its head)

Vanessa Thorpe

Revellers in Trafalgar Square and in the Highlands of Scotland shivered in temperatures of minus 4C during one of the coldest New Year's Eves for 15 years.

Two people died as the icy weather blew in from Russia where anyone foolhardy enough to see in the New Year in Red Square, Moscow, would have had to brave wind blasts of minus 18C.

Temperatures in some parts of the Britain were as low as 10C, with Kent and Sussex taking the brunt. Up to



Cold stroll: Ostriches farmed at Elvington, near York, caught in a snow blizzard yesterday

Photograph: John Giles/PA

10cms of snow fell on the South Downs, while the London Weather Centre reported 12cms in parts of East Sussex. Southern England last saw such snows in 1981 when 15cms fell. Kent suffered particularly bad-

ly last night with black ice and drifting snows and speed restrictions widely imposed.

A 57-year-old Suffolk farmworker collapsed and died while digging his car out of snow and a 40-year-

old woman fell and froze to death while walking her dog on Sunday in the Cardiff area. Main roads around Penrith were blocked by drifting snow and ice while many roads in Yorkshire, Northumberland, Cumbria

and Kent were only passable in a four-wheel drive vehicle. The AA stepped up the number of its national patrols by 20 per cent and warned drivers to revise any plans to travel far.

The charity Crisis decided to keep open 13 of the Christmas shelters that were due to close down yesterday.

A Eurostar spokesman, said yesterday that the cold weather had

probably been to blame for Monday's breakdown. Snow caked on the undercarriage is suspected to have melted and caused the power failure which stranded 300 passengers for two and half hours.

Goldsmith party is scorned as amateur

Fran Abrams
Political Correspondent

Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party is run by a group of amateurs who have mustered the support of only about 15,000 people nationwide, a defector from the party said yesterday.

John Bostock, who resigned as a Conservative Party agent last summer to work for the new organisation, has now moved on again, to the UK Independence Party.

He said that in some parliamentary seats the Referendum Party did not have a single supporter. Sir James and his supporters plan to field a candidate at the general election in every seat where the sitting MP fails to back a referendum on Europe.

Mr Bostock, who was paid £24,000 per year by the party, was a regional campaign manager, responsible for overseeing the fight in 71 seats. However, he became convinced that the party's appeal was severely limited and that its ambitious plans were based on "a complete and utter fallacy".

"The whole thing is a nonsense. Fifteen thousand out of 58 million people is a drop in the ocean," he said of the number of pledges of support. "It is a nothing party. The average Conservative party association has about 1,000 members."

Mr Bostock's comments will lend weight to the arguments of those who say Sir James's pro-

ject is implausible and that it will not catch the popular mood in Britain.

The former Conservative will now stand as a candidate in Preston for the UK Independence Party, which believes that Britain should withdraw from the European Union and that trade links with Europe should be renegotiated.

Yesterday he said the Referendum Party simply lacked organisation, and that there was no real co-ordination between its departments. A promised list of supporters had failed to materialise.

"It is a campaign run with amateurs. People are leaving all the time, for many of the same reasons - lack of organisation and disillusionment."

Mr Bostock accused Sir James of "back-tracking" on his original suggested referendum question - whether Britain should be governed from Westminster or Brussels. The Referendum Party leader now prefers a "multi-optional" plebiscite accommodating a "diversity of views".

A spokeswoman for the Referendum Party, Priti Patel, said it did not have members because it was non-political, campaigning simply on a single issue. Mr Bostock was "clearly slightly bitter" because he had only managed to recruit five candidates in the North-west. She said there were now 48 candidates ready to stand in the area. "We have replaced him with a very strong regional team."

DAILY POEM

A Puppy Called Puberty/ A Dog Called Elderly

By Adrian Mitchell

It was like keeping a puppy in your underpants
A secret puppy you weren't allowed to show to anyone
Not even your best friend or your worst enemy

You wanted to pat him stroke him cuddle him
All the time but you weren't supposed to touch him

He only slept for five minutes at a time
Then he'd suddenly perk up his head
In the middle of school medical inspection
And always on bus rides
So you had to climb down from the upper deck
So you had to snuggle the puppy off the bus
All bent double to snuggle the puppy off the bus
Without the busconductor's spottings
Your naked and ticketless stowaway.

Jumping up, wet-nosed, eagerly wagging -
He only stopped being a nuisance
When you were alone together
Pretending to be doing your homework
But really gazing at each other
Through the fog and hazy daydreams

Of those beautiful schoolgirls on the bus
With their hair bouncing in their sweaters.

A Dog Called Elderly

And now I have a dog called Elderly
And all he ever wants to do
Is now and then be let out for a piss
But spend the rest of his lifetime
Sleeping on my lap in front of the fire.

Today's choice from the TS Eliot Prize short-list has already been on Radio 4's Pick of the Week and Pick of the Year. It appears in Blue Coffee (Bloodaxe), a collection of Adrian Mitchell's work from 1985 to 1996.

BARCLAYS NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

to offer the best
current account
package in
the High Street.



BARCLAYS

Monthly fee £5. Barclays Additions is available only to personal customers aged 18 or over and is not available in the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man. Barclays Additions and overdrafts are subject to status. Overdrafts are repayable on demand. A written quotation is available on request from your local branch or from Barclays Bank PLC, Personal Sector, PO Box 120, Coventry CV4 8BN. (£100 overdraft E.A.R. 0%. Larger, agreed overdraft E.A.R. 18.8%). Rates may vary. Published by Barclays Bank PLC. Registered Number 1026167. Registered in England. Reg. Office: 54 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3AH. Barclays Bank PLC is a member of the Banking Ombudsman Scheme (UK branches only).

news

Bedrooms for cells as floating hotel is turned into a prison

Ian Burrell

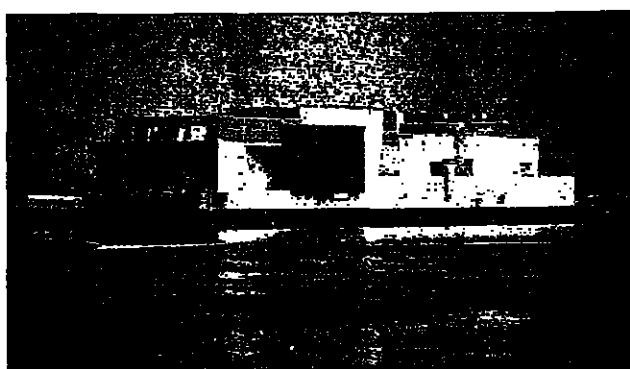
Britain's first floating prison, soon to be towed across the Atlantic from New York City where it has been used as a drug rehabilitation centre, once housed workers extending the Falklands Islands airport.

The "hotel" is moored in the River Hudson while negotiations continue with the Prison Service, which plans to ease overcrowding by using the vessel to hold around 500 prisoners in Portland harbour in Dorset. Bedrooms would become cells, each with their own lavatory and washing facilities. Existing communal facilities would be converted for prison use.

on the top deck, surrounded by a 20ft-high fence. Any prisoner scaling it would face a 70ft sheer drop.

The ship would be connected to mains water, electricity and drainage. Because it could be moved when no longer required, it would not need planning permission, only the willingness of the harbour authorities and the borough council for it to operate.

The plan to move 500 prisoners from jails in and around Manchester and Liverpool to the prison ship has outraged penal reformers. The partners and families of inmates take round trips of nearly 600 miles to make fortnightly visits, costing up to £100,000 a month in public money for their rail



Mod cons: A giant prison ship in use in New York and, right, a communal area of another typical floating prison

fares. Paul Cavadino, chairman of the Penal Affairs Consortium, said the long journeys would undermine prisoners' relationships with their families. "When

families arrive they will be in a fraught state and it will greatly reduce the quality of the visit," he said. "Prisoners released without family support are six

times more likely to re-offend soon after their release."

Prison staff said that moving prisoners a long distance was a threat to security and was an im-

portant factor in the riots at Strangeways and other jails in 1990. Bev Lord, deputy chairman of the Prison Officers' Association, said: "Couldn't they

find a port in the North-west to moor this ship?"

Ministers are said to have approved the plan after prison officials inspected the ship, the Resolution, on Christmas Eve.

A Prison Service spokesman said there was great pressure on jails in the North-west but no final decisions had been taken on which prisoners would be placed aboard the ship.

"We are still seeking to acquire the vessel," he said. "As to exactly where such inmates might be from, it is too early to say at this stage."

The plan is likely to encounter local opposition in Dorset on both aesthetic and environmental grounds.

Bob Beare, deputy mayor of Weymouth and Portland

borough council, said: "I have never seen such a monstrosity in all my life. It is not going to do much for our tourist trade."

The planning committee had not been given a chance to discuss the plan, he added.

Conservationists are concerned that the ship, with all its potential sewage problems, is due to be moored in a harbour which is a special area for conservation. English Nature describes the harbour as being one of Britain's most important sites of marine wildlife. Because it is an enclosed harbour on the warm south coast, with particularly fine sediments, it is home to a range of anemones and rare underwater plants normally found only in the Mediterranean.

Oil fever fuels new war over Falklands

James Cusick

The prospect of the Falkland Islands becoming one of the world's oil-rich elite communities may have contributed to the Argentine government's renewal of sovereignty claims.

As a dozen of the world's leading oil companies explore potential oil fields around the South Atlantic British colony, where the deposits may be one-and-a-half times the size of those in the North Sea, President Carlos Menem has issued a statement asserting that Britain should consider sharing sovereignty.

President Menem said that by the year 2000 he hoped "we will see the Argentine flag flying in the islands, either by itself or alongside other flags." He added: "If the Argentine flag flies alongside the British flag, that would be a step forward."

Although no firm geological data has confirmed the presence of economically viable quantities of oil, this has not stopped the island's 2,400 residents from making plans about how their resources will be marshalled.

During the licensing organisation period, the Falklands government estimated potential earnings from two hypothetical fields coming on stream. Yields of 250 million and 500 million barrels were forecast. This would net the islands an average of £1.1bn a year over a 20-year period, the equivalent of £483,653 for every man, woman and child in the islands.

Crucial to President Menem's timetable is the fact that the revenue from oil, if any is found, would begin to flow in 2003.

Just as potential oil wealth eroded traditional ways of life in the Orkneys and the Shetland Isles, so it appears to have affected the Falkland Islands.

Already the islands' economy has been overheated by the £20m annual income from fishing licences granted around the island's ocean territory. Once thought to be a poor and remote community, they are now technically rich.

Control by Whitehall has eased since the Falklands War in 1982. The old dual masters, the powerful Falkland Islands

Company and the Foreign Office have been replaced by a semi-autonomous government.

The sheep, all 750,000 of them, are still there. But the population no longer describes themselves as sheep farmers. Fewer than 450 now live outside the capital, Stanley.

The British government and the Falkland Islanders themselves will have been unimpressed by President Menem's comment. A spokeswoman for Foreign Office rejected any idea of dual sovereignty and said: "We have no doubt of our sovereignty of the Falkland Islands. We are not prepared to discuss any change over the Falklands. There is no change to our position."

But while the British government says it does not intend to change its view of the Falklands, the people of the Falklands may be planning to change their view of Britain.

Although the islanders are still grateful for the intervention of the Task Force in 1982, which ended the attempt by the then Argentine leader, General Galtieri, to retake the "Malvinas", there may be a diplomatic feud between the islands and the mother country should oil be found.

The islands' council, the eight-person body that decides all policy, except defence and foreign affairs, has recently formally offered to pay the £67m annual running costs of Mount Pleasant, the 2,000-strong garrison near the former 1982 military airport.

This sum remains Britain's sole financial contribution to the colony. When the Secretary of State for Defence, Michael Portillo, visits the Falklands early in the New Year, as part of the celebrations to mark the 16th anniversary of Britain's formal adoption of the islands, he will bring with him a Treasury demand for the Falklands' figure to be agreed - crucially, before oil is struck.

Despite the old British convention that dependent territories are entitled to the wealth generated by their own resources, another Falklands war, this time involving legions of international lawyers, could be in prospect.



Metal fatigue: Margaret Nolder, of Stroud council, with tenants outside one of the soon-to-be-demolished prefabs in Cam, Gloucestershire

Photograph: Bruce Seabrook

Built from scrap and held up with rivets, the tin can home finds a place in history

Stephen Goodwin
Heritage Correspondent

They were cold in winter and hot in summer, but the people who lived in Britain's "tin can" homes loved them.

Now one of the last of the prefabricated houses made from scrapped Second World War aircraft is to be taken down and reassembled as a museum exhibit.

Utilitarian and unacknowledged for most of its 45-year lifetime, the B2 prefabricated bungalow finally

gained the attention of English Heritage and the last of the line is to be saved.

Aircraft metal was melted down in 1947-48 to make 70 prefabricated bungalows at Cam, near Dursley, Gloucestershire. Elsie Fowler, whose home has been chosen to represent the genre, moved in when it was built in 1949 and has lived there ever since.

Her "temporary" home was erected in a few days with rivets to hold together the tin walls and roof. Now all the other houses are to be

demolished to make way for new brick bungalows on the same site. But her former home will become a major exhibit at the Avoncroft Museum of Buildings at Bromsgrove in the Midlands.

"I am thrilled to think that it is my house which will be taken to the museum," said Mrs Fowler, who has moved into a residential home.

Quodley, Gloucester. "I remember thinking that it was a nice house when we moved in. They were cool in winter and warm in summer but

there was a big garden, with a shed."

The original living room coal fire is still intact, as are the cooker, the clothes boiler and the metal kitchen sink. Both bedrooms are just as they were when she moved in with her husband Alfred.

When her prefabricated house was supposed to be a temporary home lasting a maximum of 15 years, Stroud council, which owns the building, agreed to donate it to the museum after English Heritage decided the houses

are a part of British history which should be remembered.

The prefabs at Cam, and another 30 at nearby Cashes Green, which are also being replaced, are thought to be the last authentic wartime bungalows of their kind.

The council chairman, Margaret Nolder, once lived in an identical prefabricated house across the valley in Dursley.

She said: "Everything was made of metal - the walls, the roof, even the bedroom wardrobe. They were blooming cold. I can tell you,

but the residents love them."

Many are sorry to see the tin homes go. Mrs Fowler says she will visit the museum if she is up to the trip.

English Heritage first honoured prefabricated bungalows a year ago when it recommended 17 asbestos-built homes in a Birmingham suburb for architectural listing. Prefabs were a response to a desperate post-war housing shortage and though intended as temporary many were not demolished until the 1970s.

CLASSIFIED

Accountancy & Finance

HARPUR

ACCOUNTANCY RECRUITMENT

SECURITISATION ACC 440K + BONUS

Mortgage Div of Multinational Finance Co urgently req Oual ACCA ACA to spearhead expanding Co

SFA reporting, and audit and systems dev

EUROPEAN MANAGEMENT ACC. £19-23K + PRP

Exc opp for ambitious PQ to join Finance Media Group, worldwide luron and full study assistance

FINANCIAL ANALYST £19-25K + STUDY

French owned Financial Services Group req no 2 to Int'l FC Ideal opp for PQ with finance sector exp

to assume Internal Audit and Management Acc role

MANAGEMENT ACC. £16-20K + STUDY

Leading High Tech Information Technology Co req PQ with solid financial accts exp to be fully

trained in all aspects of management accts, PENSION, PRP AND BUPA.

Take Off

0171 437 4567

Accountancy & Finance

INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT BANK

requires

MATHEMATICIAN

To work within the risk management and quantitative analysis department. The successful candidate will have a degree in mathematics, a strong background in differential calculus, probability, statistics and multivariate analysis, random variables, and matrix methods. The ability to assimilate new concepts quickly and respond rapidly to requests requiring specific mathematical modelling skills must be matched by an ability to communicate effectively and to discuss complex business issues with front office personnel. Candidates should also have experience of producing documentation of publication standard.

Salary £30,000

CV's to PO Box 11840 The Independent, 19th Floor,

One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

To advertise

in the

Recruitment

Section

please

telephone

0171 293 2000

What's On

PHANTOM POP & SPOT, C.Dion,

The Tunes 0171 623 5119

Don't forget

to mention

The Independent

when replying to

adverts

Cardinal accuses Labour of leaning on pro-life MPs

Fran Abrams

Political Correspondent

Politicians and churchmen were embroiled in a new row over abortion last night as the leader of the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland accused Labour of pressuring anti-abortion MPs to keep quiet about their views.

In response, Labour's Clare Short accused the Scottish Catholics of doing the same thing to prevent MPs from speaking out in favour of choice on the issue.

The new controversy will further inflame the issue, which anti-abortion activists are determined to highlight during the general election campaign.

The newly formed Pro-Life Alliance Party is planning to field candidates in areas where no representative of any other party is prepared to speak against abortion. Its leaders

said they would like to contest 50 seats.

Last weekend the head of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, Cardinal Basil Hume, described abortion as "a great evil in our society", and said the church would never change its attitude to it.

Cardinal Thomas Winning, his Scottish equivalent, added yesterday that as Labour was basically pro-abortion, MPs who were not in line with its views were under pressure.

Tony Blair's stance on abortion is that while he is not in favour of it, he believes it is a matter for individual MPs.

Cardinal Winning said: "It's not Tony Blair's private opinion about abortion, it's the perception of the Labour Party's attitude towards abortion, which is very strongly pro-abortion and always has been."

"I have had too many Labour



Cardinal Winning: Claims Labour MPs under pressure

MPs tell of the pressures they are under to go along with the party line and if they didn't, they would lose their sponsorship

from the trade unions - I can vouch for that. There is great pressure on them to be pro-abortion," he said.

Ms Short, Labour's overseas aid spokeswoman, has accused the Catholic Church of alienating a whole generation of women by failing to face up to the problems of sex. She said yesterday that the cardinal's views were "very sad".

"We know that the Catholic Church in Scotland has traditionally exerted unfair pressure on MPs on this issue. In the Labour Party we argue over these issues and we have an absolute right to conscience for Labour MPs and that is how it should be," she said.

A Labour spokeswoman said: "The issue... should be a matter of individual conscience and not party politics."

Polly Toynbee, page 11

كتاب الامل

West Bank breakthrough: As Israel agrees to quit holy city, Palestinians prepare to up their demands

Hebron deal ends months of wrangling

Eric Silver
Jerusalem

After months of nit-picking negotiation, false optimism and premature predictions, Israel and the Palestinians finally agreed yesterday on the terms of Israel's redeployment in Hebron, the last West Bank town under occupation.

David Bar-Ilan, a senior adviser to the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, said last night: "The agreement is practically finalised. We expect a meeting between the two leaders within 24 hours to tie up any loose ends."

The summit between Mr Netanyahu and the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, could probably have taken place last night. But the Prime Minister did not want to leave the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, where MPs were voting on the third reading of a contentious 1997 budget.

The two leaders will initial the deal, which will then be submitted later this week to the Israeli cabinet, where Mr Netanyahu faces the threat of a revolt by at least one-third of the 18 right-wing and religious ministers. As a sop to coalition backbenchers, the Prime Minister will also present the agreement to the Knesset for debate.

The Israeli troops may redeploy, however, immediately after the cabinet has endorsed the terms. They do not have to be ratified by parliament.

Mr Netanyahu's majority is not at risk. Labour and the left-wing Meretz opposition parties, the fathers of the Oslo breakthrough, have announced that they will vote for the Hebron accord.

The expected abstentions, or hostile voting, by his own colleagues in the Likud party will, however, dent Mr Netanyahu's authority. No Prime Minister

refuses being beholden to the opposition for major policy decisions.

Two senior Likud ministers, the former general Ariel Sharon and Benny Begin, son of the Likud party's founder, Menachem Begin, have come out against the deal. So has Rafael Eitan, a former chief of staff, who ran on a joint list with Likud in last May's elections. Four ministers and 14 dissenting coalition backbenchers stayed away when a maverick right-wing no-confidence motion on the Hebron talks was put to a vote on Monday.

Mr Begin, the Minister of Science, explained his opposition to *The Independent* last night: "Any areas relinquished to the PLO immediately become safe havens for terrorists. Arafat has violated numerous major articles of the Oslo agreement. I don't want further experiments that hand over our security to PLO terrorist sub-contractors."

The new Hebron agreement sticks to the basic pattern of the

deal negotiated by Shimon Peres's Labour administration a year ago. Mr Netanyahu claimed, to scepticism on both sides of the Knesset this week, that he had succeeded in strengthening security provisions for the town's 450 Jewish settlers in 10 particulars.

Israeli troops will evacuate 80-85 per cent of the disputed holy city, traditionally seen as the burial place of Jews and Arabs. They will stay in the remaining 15-20 per cent to protect the settlers. All but 15,000 of the 150,000 Arab residents will come under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority and the protection of the Palestinian police.

The agreement provides for a buffer zone around the Jewish quarter, where Palestinian police will be limited to short-range automatic weapons. The height of new Palestinian buildings around the enclave will be restricted to prevent sniping. The Arab town council will not have any control over building inside the Jewish areas.

Israeli and Palestinian forces will mount joint patrols. Israel also reserves the right to conduct hot-pursuit and pre-emptive raids inside the Palestinian areas. However, officials admit that similar provisions in other evacuated towns have not been implemented. They are unlikely to be invoked in Hebron either. The key to success or failure will be the degree of trust that grows up between the respective security services.

Last night, Israeli officials were predicting a compromise on the Palestinians' last-minute demand for a role in the security around the Tomb of the Patriarchs, a shrine which is sacred to both Jews and Muslims. The original agreement left security around the tomb exclusively in Israeli hands.



Provocation: Two settlers praying in an Arab home in Hebron in a bid to expand the Jewish presence in the city before the Israeli withdrawal

Hurdles block way to final peace

Eric Silver
Jerusalem

Once the Hebron redeployment is out of the way, Israel and the Palestinians will present competing shopping lists for continuing the shambling Oslo peace process.

The negotiations promise to be as slow, as grudging and as volatile as those over Hebron - which dragged on for nine months beyond the March redeployment deadline.

An Israeli political science professor, Yaron Ezrahi, has dubbed Oslo a "peace of attrition". Benjamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat seem bent on proving him right.

Each leader is determined to extract the maximum advantage

for the lowest price. Each is looking over his shoulder at a sceptical constituency that needs to be convinced that a timetable for the West Bank villages. The next few weeks will prove whether he succeeded.

The Palestinians are also clamouring for the release of about 6,000 Arab security prisoners, including a handful of women, still in Israeli jails. Mr Netanyahu has undertaken gradually to free all those who have not murdered Israelis.

The Palestinians want Israel to fulfil its pledge to open a "safe passage" route for Palestinian traffic between the autonomous regions of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The black-and-white signs have been in place for two years, but the Israelis have not worked out how to allow vehi-

cles to flow without enabling suicide bombers to get into Israel. Lower down the list, the Palestinians want to operate an airport in the Gaza Strip. Up to now, Israel has stood by its right under the Oslo accords to control the Palestinian borders. If the airport is to open, Israel will need to be sure it does not serve as an arms gateway. Similar reservations apply to a new port the Palestinians want to build in Gaza.

On their side, the Israelis are insisting that Mr Arafat extradite Palestinian gunmen who attack Israelis and shelter under the Palestinian flag in Jericho or Gaza. Palestinian spokesmen maintain that Oslo allows them to arrest and try the offenders themselves, which they have done.

Mr Netanyahu is still pressing Mr Arafat to repudiate the clauses in the 1964 Palestinian National Covenant, which call for the destruction of the Jewish state. The PLO leader has said since 1993 that the clauses were null and void, but the Israeli right is not satisfied.

More tangibly, Israel is demanding that the Palestinian Authority disarm the Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Popular Front militias, which persist in waging the old "armed struggle" from within Palestinian territory.

And after that, the two sides can get down to negotiating the "final status" of Jerusalem and the 127 West Bank and Gaza Jewish settlements; compensation for the Palestinian refugees of the 1948 and 1967 wars and Palestinian sovereignty.

significant shorts

Rebels in Peru renew call to free comrades

Rebels who stormed the Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima, Peru last month and took hundreds of people hostage denied they were terrorists and renewed demands that their jailed comrades be freed.

"What we have is terrorism of state, where thousands of children are killed by starvation," said the rebel from inside the compound. He urged reporters to go to prisons where rebel prisoners are held, saying conditions there were equal to a death sentence.

The Peruvian President, Alberto Fujimori, said he would consider granting safe passage out of the country to rebels holding hostages in the Japanese ambassador's house if they release the captives and lay down their weapons. AP - Lima

Deng in hospital

China's paramount leader, Deng Xiaoping, was hospitalised for emergency treatment last week. Hong Kong's *Sing Tao Daily* newspaper reported on Tuesday. The report, quoting Peking sources, did not say what the 92-year-old patriarch was treated for, or when. AP - Hong Kong

Court backs mother's visits

A British woman embroiled in a child custody battle with her estranged Malaysian husband obtained a Muslim court order that permits her to visit her son without interference from the father. Jane Brummit, also known by her Muslim name of Aishah Jane Abdullah, alleged that Ismail Ariffin physically abused her recently when she visited their 21-month-old son, Sumi Sazali. Reuter - Kuala Lumpur

Samper thanks the little people

Colombian President Ernesto Samper gave thanks to the "little people below" and the "Lord above" for keeping him in power during 1996, despite an onslaught of scandals, after a storm of protest after allegations that he financed his 1994 election campaign with millions of dollars from the powerful Cali drug cartel.

"With my hand on my heart, I can say it was the little people below and the Lord above that maintained the president and the government this year," Mr Samper said. Reuter - Bogota

Diplomats avoid charges

An official from Belarus arrested for punching a police officer in the face and a Russian accused of trying to start his car while drunk were freed after New York police learned they were diplomats, police said. AP - New York

China gains from BSE fear

Fears over Britain's mad cow disease have sent Chinese beef exports soaring as Hong Kong and South-east Asian markets search for alternative sources of supply, the *China Daily* said. Beef exports were up 43 per cent compared with the same period of 1995. Reuter - Peking

Fresco thief caught in act

German tourist Manfred Lehmann, 66, was arrested using a hammer to break free frescoes from the ancient city of Ephesus in Turkey. He was released pending trial on charges of attempting to smuggle out ancient artefacts. AP - Selcuk, Turkey



Human shield: Cecilia Velazquez, a bank manager, being held by a robber during a six-hour stand-off with police in a district of Mexico City on Monday. Outside, a policeman swung open the door of a getaway car and shot dead one of the robbers when he attempted to escape the scene with two hostages. Photograph Jose Luis Magna/AP

The ruling party is pulling out all the stops in an election it has no chance of losing, writes Stephen Vines

Singapore tries to induce feelgood factor

I am not sure which editions of British newspapers are delivered to Singapore but we have it on the authority of Lee Kuan Yew, the country's elder statesman, that the entire British press is supporting JBJ Jayaratnam, the leader of the opposition Workers' Party.

Mr Lee's words are gospel in these parts, so there can be no doubt of the veracity of his statement that the British media is backing the Workers' Party.

As the sole British newspaper representative present when Mr Lee made these remarks, I must admit to having felt a tad self-conscious. Could it be that while I was toiling under the tropical sun, *The Independent* leader writers back in London were throwing the weight of this august organ behind the amiable Mr Jayaratnam?

Mr Lee was speaking in the heat of an election campaign and strange things tend to get said at these times, never stranger than the remarks uttered by Goh Chok Tong, Mr Lee's successor as Prime Minister.

Yet, even in his exalted position, Mr Goh, who has problems bringing his sentences to an end, worries about becoming "a much smaller man". This is a problem because Mr Goh is unusually tall and fears being cut down in size if one Tang Liang Hong of the Workers' Party gains a seat in parliament. Should that happen Mr Goh says, "my word in future will have less weight both internationally as well as in Singapore".

The ruling People's Action Party (PAP) accuses Mr Tang of Chinese chauvinism because of alleged remarks questioning the predominance of English-

language educated cabinet members over their Chinese-educated colleagues.

In the past few days there has been a sudden absence of parking tickets on unlawfully parked cars. This is unusual in law-enforcement obsessed Singapore. Meanwhile, citizens are getting a barrage of letters confirming subsidy payments, waiving land taxes and generally offering all sorts of good news, again, remarkably, in the few days before polling. But voters have also been threatened with the withdrawal of government services if they voted for the opposition.

Surely the PAP cannot be trying to induce a feelgood factor? This suspicion may well be the genesis of one of the many jokes doing the rounds: "How many Singaporeans does it take to change a light bulb? - Answer:

none, because there is no need. According to the PAP Singapore is getting brighter all the time.

Not, however, bright enough to deter Singaporeans from turning out at opposition rallies in their tens of thousands. Bearing in mind that there will be only 765,332 voters in this election (like many things in Singapore, voting is compulsory) these numbers are very large indeed. Despite the massive turnout, the opposition rallies have become largely phantom events. Tight camera work by the television news broadcasters gives the impression of sparse attendance. In reality, not only do the size of the crowds dwarf those attending PAP rallies but their enthusiasm is amazing.

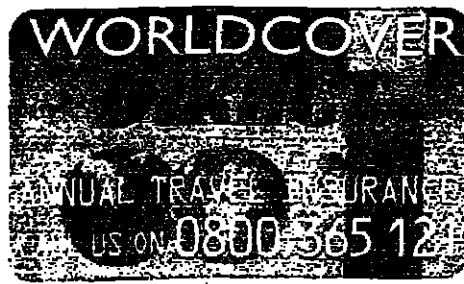
This enthusiasm is unlikely to be translated into an avalanche of opposition parliamentary seats. Even if they win half the

popular vote, they will not get more than 14 seats in the 81-seat legislature.

A glance at the map of electoral boundaries gives some idea of the creativity the PAP has shown in preparing for the election which it has no chance of losing. One constituency meanders ingeniously around the island that it ditches the laws of geography but makes perfect

sense in the way that it carves up centres of opposition support. Other boundaries have strange channels in their midst.

The real danger of the Singapore election is that it will become a model for other governments attached to the legal niceties of elections but unhappy with the unpredictability of what is sometimes known as "the free vote".





An audience with the Waltz King

It's that time of the year when everything in the world seems to be swinging in three-four time. As the Vienna Philharmonic prepares to give its traditional New Year's Day Concert of waltzes, polkas and marches, the late Johann Strauss grants Piers Burton-Page an exclusive interview

The house out in the Leopoldstadt, not far from the Prater, is replete with imperial solidity. The varnish on the dark wooden floors gleams brilliantly, the furniture is large and heavy, the hangings and drapes all velvet and plush. Ignoring the branch of McDonald's nearby, I ring the bell and am shown into the music room. He is already there, full head of hair slightly greying, self-consciously handsome, smoking a cigar, slightly nervous. In fact, well-preserved after all these years.

There are three basic questions one has to ask Johann the Younger, as he hates to be called. In order: Wine? Women? Song? It is not a good start. "As any Viennese will tell you, there is nothing wrong with the good life. Why are you British always so puritanical?" But the three wives? "Jenny's death was a catastrophe. Angelica was simply... unfaithful. And Adele is my muse." On cue, Frau Strauss brings coffee - Blue Mountain. If not Blue Danube. She is evidently much younger than her husband, evidently worships him, and is evidently Jewish. Some bulls have to be taken by the horns.

"Yes, we met in the middle. I was a Catholic. She was a Jew. Now we are both Protestants. And not Austrians either: for the difficulties to be overcome we both had to become citizens of Sax-Coburg-Gotha." So we fall to talking about Austria, and the

Austrians. Would he call himself a patriot? "Hardly." And then silence. The tangled web of Habsburg politics has even the Strauss family enmeshed. But the question will not go away. "I was Imperial Court Music Director, *kaiserlich und königlich* - my loyalties are clear." I gently remind Herr Strauss that it was not always so.

"1848, you mean? An aberration! Youth must needs have dalliance - it was my means of getting back at my illustrious father, also Johann, also a musician. We were on opposite sides. But enough said. Politics! Art and politics shouldn't mix, ever!" The famous Strauss brow furrows. "I know what happened in this city after I died. I know about the wars. I know about Hitler. I know about anti-Semitism. I know that Austrian complicity is not excused even yet - as 1996 slides unasily into 1997, and the memory of Dollfuss and Schönerer and Waldheim is still strong. I have Jewish blood in me; the Nazis forged my father's marriage certificate to hide the fact. Nothing can surprise me any more. But it wasn't all roses from the South in my day, either..." At this point, though, Adele Strauss lays a firm but gentle hand on her husband's shoulder. His reddening visage slowly lightens. He stares distantly out of the window and hums, waiting for the next question. *The Perpetuum Mobile*, is it?

Immortality seems a suitable topic. Beethoven! Brahms! Bruckner! Surely a

composer of such fluency as Johann Strauss, with such a tenacious grasp of music's fundamentals and appeal, would have wanted to enter the Pantheon alongside the immortals?

"Self-expression is best left to those with an inflated idea of the Self! I know my limitations - except when I don't know them. Besides, surely you know that I had designs on the opera house. Unfortunately, my operas turned out to be operettas. At the end I was even diversifying into ballet. *Aschenbrödel* - Cinderella to you - practically killed me."

But the three Bs? "Bruckner worshipped me. I'm told. Even though he was a man for the *Ländler* rather than the waltz. That's an Upper Austrian dance, three-four again, slower, statelier - very Brucknerian. Originally they danced it with hobnailed boots on. And they yodelled as well, sometimes. Very Brucknerian again! Well, he was basically a peasant, wasn't he?" The suspicion of a leer curling above the Straussian moustache is not a pleasant sight.

"Brahms was a different matter. He worshipped me, too. But we were friends. He came regularly to my villa in Bad Ischl in the Salzammergut. In fact, there's a photograph of us there together. Fetch it please, Adele." And sure enough, there they are: on the veranda, formally dressed, the mountains in the background, the one tall and unabashed next to the heavy,

corpulent and very hairy composer of the *Liebeslieder Walzes* but also of the German Requiem.

"He died only a year or two before I did. We were very sad. May I tell you a story? My wife had a decorated paper fan for the heat in the Viennese summer. There was a little musical quotation from the *Blue Danube* on it. One day, Brahms saw it and asked permission to add something. And do you know what he wrote? *Leider nicht von Johannes Brahms*. 'Sadly, not by Johannes Brahms.' How touching! But imagine if I'd done that to the German Requiem. A throaty chuckle, followed by a fit of coughing. Maybe the years have taken their toll after all.

How has the Strauss family flag been kept flying all these years, then? "Well, there was a whole army of brothers and cousins for a start. I had to watch Joseph and Eduard like hawks. There was a grandson - I forget his name - and there is even a direct descendant in Vienna today, another Eduard. But he has seen sense and become a lawyer."

So is it technology to the rescue? "I've heard an old record of someone who may be Brahms playing the piano. I was alive long enough to hear talk of cylinders and 78s. Then newspapers, radio and television - I owe them a lot. A shame that copyright only lasts for 70 years after one's death, what with all the new CDs - I have

a huge collection. Did you know, by the way, there's a company with the wonderful name of Marco Polo that announced seven years ago they would record every note I ever wrote? And they have! Even the *Blue Danube* with chorus, and old Joseph Weyl's terrible verses. They're about to start on my father's work. Personally, I'm hoping soon for a Strauss CD-Rom. And perching on my own Web site. Do you think *Hot Java* would be a good name for a new Polka? A bit advanced, perhaps."

And so to that concert, broadcast live from the Musikverein on New Year's Day, with its audience of millions around the world. What does the Waltz King make of what has now become an established ritual? "I'm all in favour, especially of having it on television. And I'm sure this new lad Brian Kay will be every bit as on the ball for the BBC as dear old Richard Baker was. But it's a pretty spurious tradition, you know: the Philharmonic only started the concert this century for a money-spinner, long after my demise. The Vienna Phil were very iffy about my music in my lifetime - just as they were with dear old Bruckner, to name but one. I blame the critics - Eduard Hanslick, and all his tribe. He wrote a book called *The Beautiful in Music*, but he couldn't recognise it at 100 pages. It was depressing for a while, but the Whirligig of Time and all that. In fact, that would be a good title for a new waltz..."

Indeed. The very titles of the Strauss family waltzes are enough to set the blood racing. Where did they come from? "Aha! Well spotted! Most of them were born out of desperation on press day for the printed programme at the Sperl Rooms or the Sofiensaal. I scoured the newspapers for ideas, or looked at the Vienna street map, or made something up that had no meaning at all. *Trisch-Tratsch*, that sort of thing. And, of course, the Danube never was blue, not even then."

At that moment, the mobile phone that has lain unobtrusively alongside the venerable Bösendorfer piano in the Strauss music room springs into full digital life. The Waltz King seizes it with alacrity, gabbles into it for a moment or two in his still incomprehensible Viennese dialect, and is already calling for his camel-haired ankle-length coat. "Forgive me, I must dash. I am talking to America via satellite. Adele will show you out." Outside, I hear the jingle of the harness as the waiting fiacre, blinds down, bears off along the snow-lined Vienna streets the man the Austrians seem to have crowned their new Emperor of Music.

The Vienna Philharmonic's New Year's Day Concert, presented by Brian Kay, is broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 today at 10.15am (with Part 2 also on BBC2 from 11.15am). During the interval, David King plays Bruckner in Piers Burton-Page's 'The Linz Version'.

A calendar of the Arts in 1997

James Aufenast selects the most promising events of the year ahead. Mark them in your diaries, or miss out



See Braque still lives at the Royal Academy in January



Jack Dee joins the Leicester Comedy Festival in February



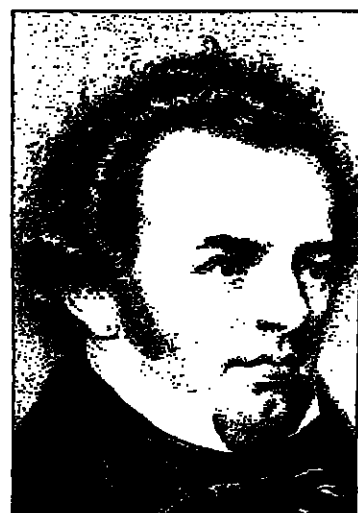
Kristin Scott-Thomas appears in 'The English Patient' in March



Rachel Whiteread exhibits at the Hayward Gallery in April



Pianist Alfred Brendel plays at the Edinburgh Festival in August



A week of Schubert in November at the Royal Festival Hall

JANUARY

Visual Arts: "Braque: the late works". Still lives with more scraps of newspaper than even Picasso could muster. Royal Academy (23). Theatre: *The Homecoming*. Roger Michell revives Pinter's classic family drama, with Lindsay Duncan. National Theatre (23). Opera: *Pulsarina*. Long-awaited British stage premiere of Hans Pfitzner's 1917 epic about the Renaissance composer and the redemptive power of music. Thomas Moser stars. Nikolaus Lehnhoff directs. Royal Opera House (28).

FEBRUARY

Comedy: Jack Dee and Sandra Bernhard head up Leicester's comedy fest - the biggest and best in the UK. Various venues (7-16). Classical: Pierre Boulez opens R3's pre-Millennial "Sounding the Century" project, conducting Stravinsky's *Rite* with the BBC SO. RFH, SBC, London (16). Theatre: *Ivanov*. 1997 is Ralph Fiennes's year, starting with this rare piece of Chekhov, directed by Jonathan Kent in a reprise of the partnership that gave us the Hackney Hamlet. Almeida, London (18).

MARCH

Classical: Mstislav Rostropovich marks his 70th birthday with five concerts with the LSO. Barbican Hall, London (8, 11, 13, 16, 25). Film: Ondate's *English Patient* would seem unfilmable, were it not for Ralph Fiennes (again) and Kristin Scott-Thomas (14). Theatre: *King Lear*. Ian Holm braves the storm. Sir Richard Eyre directs. National Theatre (27). Book: Blake Morrison's *As If*. More family matters from the author of the tender memoir, *When Did You Last See Your Father?*.

APRIL

Opera: *The Damnation of Faust*. People will persist in trying to stage Berlioz's unstageable Faustian fantasy. This time it's the turn of American maverick, David Alden. London Coliseum (7). Visual Arts: "The Object in British Art of the Eighties and Nineties". Shortland for "Incessible". Works by Hirst, Whiteread, Kapoor. Hayward Gallery, London. Dance: Ricochet Dance. Unusually, run by dancers. Including work from award-winning Javier De Frutos. QEH, London.

MAY

Opera: *Tannhäuser*. Paul Daniel bids farewell to Opera North (en route to ENO) with Wagner's magical mystery tour around the Mons Veneris. Leeds Grand (3). Musical: *The Fix*. New musical by John Dempsey, echoing *Assassins* in its shooting down of US politics. Dominion Warehouse, London. Opera: Verdi Festival. Royal Opera House, London. Pop: The Fugees. *The Score* was an original take on rap; you could listen to it. FIFES R&B mixed with De La Soul. Wombles Arena.

JUNE

Dance: Mark Morris's Edinburgh hit *L'Allegro*... comes to the ENO - at last! London gets to see Mark Morris. Coliseum (5). Visual Arts: Ellsworth Kelly. American colour-field work reminiscent of early modernists/New York school: quietly beautiful but spatially immense paintings. First major retrospective since the early 1980s. Tate. Theatre: *Anna's View*. Richard Eyre directs Judi Dench in David Hare's latest. Royal National Theatre (20).

JULY

Visual Arts: Mondrian from the The Hague. Tate, London. Dance: Kirov. Return of the St Petersburgers with a happily more varied programme including *Dan Quixote* and a selection of Diaghilev ballets. Coliseum. What a beautiful day (we hope). *Open-Air Theatre*. Regent's Park (24). Classical: James MacMillan. Innovative series celebrating innovative young Scots composer, including a sculpture collaboration. RFH/Barbican.

AUGUST

Visual Arts: John Singer Sargent. Many a flattering portrait of the English aristocracy including canvases on loan from the Musée D'Orsay and the Chicago Art Institute. Scottish National Gallery, Edinburgh. Edinburgh Festival: Galina Gorchakova, Bryn Terfel, Alfred Brendel, Pierre Boulez are expected, as are Lucia di Lammermoor with Charles Mackerras and Andrea Rost, Peter Stein with Chekhov and Stephanie Braunschweig with Shakespeare.

SEPTEMBER

Visual Arts: James Ensor. Religious uncertainty, self-obsession and death. How cheerful. Major preoccupations now as well as at the end of the 19th century. Barbican, London. Theatre: *King Lear*. Sir Peter Hall drives Alan Howard mad on the heath, in repertory with April de Angelis's revamp of *Playhouse Creatures*. Old Vic, London. Film: *Temptress Moon*. Chen Kaige's follow-up to *Farewell My Concubine*. More flagellation of little boys expected.

OCTOBER

Dance: *Cinderella*. Blitz-style setting from Matthew Bourne and Adventures in Motion Pictures in a follow-up to their record-breaking *Swan Lake*. Piccadilly Theatre, London. Visual Arts: British Symbolists as Part of a European Tradition. Ill-defined desire in Rossetti and sexuality in Beardsley never seemed quite British and here's confirmation. We've been twisted and European all along. Tate, London. Turner Prize Exhibition: The shortlist on show. Tate, London.

NOVEMBER

Jazz: London Jazz Festival. Bringing the best jazz into the capital since Ronnie Scott's death. This year's theme: Austrian Jazz, with the Vienna Art Orchestra. Visual Arts: Royal Glasgow 136th Annual Exhibition. Best of contemporary Scottish art. Watch out for the tartan. McClellan Gallery, Glasgow. Classical: Schubert Song Festival. The bicentenary boy celebrated in a week of song-cycles. Imogen Cooper and Andreas Schmidt. RFH, SBC, London.

DECEMBER

Theatre: *Chicago*. Another musical at the Dominion. Sam Mendes directs, again. From the writers of *Cabaret* with a wittier hook and fabulously brittle score. Film: *The Jesuits*. Something to take your kids to at Christmas - or anyone else's. Peter Segal directs. Visual Arts: Stanley Currier with rarely seen paintings of his Orkney homeland, interesting to compare with avant-garde versions of Edinburgh street life. Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh.

OPERA NORTH

Falstaff
GIUSEPPE VERDI

Glorian
BENJAMIN BRITTEN

Madama Butterfly
GIACOMO PUCCINI

2 Jan - 1 Feb 7.15pm
Leeds Grand Theatre
0113 245 9351/
0113 244 0971

11 - 15 Feb 7.30pm
Norwich Theatre Royal
01603 630000

18 - 22 Feb 7.15pm
Sunderland Empire Theatre
0191 514 2517

25 Feb - 1 Mar 7.15pm
Nottingham Theatre Royal
0115 948 2626

4 - 8 March 7.15pm
Manchester Palace Theatre
0161 242 2503

Eighteenth ANNIVERSARY SEASON

صلى الله عليه وسلم

Small screen, big star

Never mind Baywatch, never mind the tattooed, soon-to-be-ex-husband. Given the right script, Pamela Anderson could still be a Monroe for our age. By Emma Forrest

ANNUS HORRIBILIS, ANNUS MIRABILIS

Last year, *Varity Fair* suggested that Pamela Anderson, the premier blonde sex-bomb of the Nineties, find her own Arthur Miller. This was after the *Baywatch* actress had sealed her engagement to Motley Crue drummer Tommy Lee with a tattoo of his name on her ring finger, but before they had a baby, Brandon. It was after she had been photographed saying her vows on a Malibu beach, dressed in a white bikini, and before — though not long before — she filed for divorce.

The society magazine advised her to take up with Saul Bellow. A nice thought, but one can't help recalling the classic line about the Monroe-Miller marriage: "the tragedy of which was that she was the brains and he was the beauty". If she feels she must now search for cred, a far more suitable literary companion might be *Trainspotting's* author, Irvine Welsh. Going by the gossip of supermarket tabloids in the United States, at least they share a common interest.

But that's the lovely thing about Pam. She has never wanted to be credible. During her touchingly self-deprecating conversation with Ruby Wax, shown on BBC1 last February, she joked about wanting to play King Lear. Pam knows that she is a star rather than an actress, and women admire her, as they do Sharon Stone, for the obvious joy she feels in being a star: Pam and Sharon look pleased with their achievements, as opposed to your Julius and Winona, who keep telling us how much they don't want to be there.

Emotionally, her downfall has been an abusive husband who stayed up all night getting out of his mind with his mates while she was trying to get her new-born son to sleep. Before Pam married Tommy, both his ex-girlfriend, Bobbi Brown, and ex-wife,

Heather Locklear, went public about the physical abuse they had suffered while involved with him.

Locklear's life has many lessons for Pamela. Having left Tommy Lee, the *Dynasty* starlet is now the villain on Aaron Spelling's *Melrose Place* and the highest-paid actress in television.

Pamela does have talent — enough to get her by. Although she is no Paul Scofield, she is not supposed to be. Like Monroe, she is a nice little comedy actress, which is how she first made it — playing "the tool box girl" in the sitcom *Home Improvement*. It was a niche, but she traded it in for the scarlet swimsuit of *Baywatch*, which was a return to what she wore on all those covers of *Playboy*. She became as popular a life-guard as she had been a centrefold and was soon the biggest sex symbol in the world. However, *Baywatch* has now been axed in America, while *Home Improvement* is still one of the highest-rated comedies on American television.

Career-wise, Pamela's problems started when she moved to the big screen. Her debut, *Barb Wire*, was one of the most unwatchable of all cinema turkeys. The black-rubber-and-big-guns bonanza was not even laughably camp because its failure was so predictable: TV queens generally do flounder on celluloid. Shimmering from her success on *Dynasty*, Heather Locklear underwhelmed Hollywood with her role in *Creature from the Black Lagoon* before finding her feet back on the small screen. Farrah Fawcett, the ultimate television princess in *Charlie's Angels*, still insists on trying her luck in risible Disney comedies, and has consequently vanished from sight. Teri Hatcher has been wise in not giving up the day job (Lois in *The New Adventures of Superman*): her film *Two Days in the Valley* was widely panned. The inevitable ascen-

sion from small to big screen just doesn't work. One's good looks don't necessarily translate to celluloid, let alone one's talent.

Pamela Anderson doesn't need *Baywatch*, but she does need the small screen. There is better garbage out there for her to do. There is no reason why she couldn't make her comeback on *Friends*, as Brooke Shields did, or get herself her own Aaron Spelling vehicle. Pamela can no longer be a silent icon. She has already done too much Oprah, Ruby Wax, Jay Leno. And she has lived too much. Even if she never acted again, we would still love her, as we do Liz Taylor, for what she has been through. Regardless of *Baywatch* being dropped, we have no desire to switch off the real drama. She could just settle into that.

Elizabeth Taylor, however, is in her sixties. She did a lot of good work before becoming a staple of gala dinners and talk shows. It is harder for Pamela because, being a blonde, she is replaceable. *Baywatch* produced Gena Lee Nolin and Donna D'Errico, two vastly inferior Pam clones who are, nevertheless, hugely popular. *Playboy* has turned out Jenny McCarthy, another Pam archetype who is making it very big as a host on MTV. Pam must be wondering if she is anything more than "this hair, these lips, that body, those boobs" (which is how Tommy Lee described her).

She can survive without Tommy or the hair, the lips, etc. Her on-off reconciliation with her husband is currently off. If she sticks to her guns, she will consolidate the female support she first won with that charming Ruby Wax interview, and lose those substance abuse rumours for good. And it sounds flippant, but Pamela Anderson, more than any girl I've ever seen, could do with a haircut. Women in transition cut their hair. I think she'd look rather lovely with a brunette crop.



From centrefold to lifeguard to chat show veteran, Pamela Anderson became the world's foremost sex symbol. But wouldn't that big hair look lovely brunette and cropped?

Sales guide

FASHION
STARTED YESTERDAY
Shirley Cashmere for 3 weeks, 11 Beauchamp Place, London SW3 (0171-581 1936).
Cerruti 1881 Menswear 36 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-493 2278).
STARTED MONDAY
Austin Reed branches nationwide.
Betty Jackson inter mid-January, 311 Brompton Road, London SW3.
Biba for 4-5 weeks, 15 Shorts Gardens, London WC2 (0171-240 6644).
Burton for 4 weeks, West 1 Shopping Centre, 379 Oxford Street, London W1, and all stores nationwide (0321 267866).
Cashmere Studio 10 Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-245 9111).
Cerruti 1881 womenswear until 31 Dec, 106 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-495 5880).
Cino pants until 31 Jan, 61a Brompton Road, London SW3 (0171-589 5594).
Designworks for 3 weeks, 19 Avery Row, London W1.
DKNY Band Street, London W1.
Dorothy Perkins West 1 Store, 379 Oxford Street, London W1, and branches nationwide.
Emporio Armani 191 Brompton Road, London SW3 (0171-825 8815) and across London, Saks in Manchester and Glasgow start today.
Eton Nationwide.
Giorgio Armani 37 Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-235 6232).
Hobbs branches nationwide.
Ken Line until 31 Jan, 30 Burlington Arcade, London SW3 (0171-499 136) and 58 Beauchamp Place, SW3 (0171-584 1983).
Monsoon 23 The Market, London WC2, and stores nationwide.
Next Nationwide.
Oasis until end of January, 292 Regent Street, London W1, and branches nationwide.
Red or Dead 38 London stores.
The Scotch House for 2-3 weeks, 2 Brompton Road, London SW1 and stores across London.
Simpsons until 25 Jan, Piccadilly, London. Extra 10 per cent off today (offer excludes concessions).
ALREADY ON
Ghost, Kate Jones, Claudia Sabina, Blazer (Mass Bros Group), Racing Green, Ronit Zilka.
HOMES AND INTERIORS
Maples stores nationwide.
Rosa 2 Drury Way, North Circular Road, London NW10 (0181-326 5600) and Croydon, Birmingham, Gateshead, Leeds and Warrington.
DEPARTMENT STORES
STARTED YESTERDAY
Fortnum and Mason 181 Piccadilly, London W1 (0171-734 8240).
STARTED MONDAY
Debenhams (0171-405 4444).
Fenwick for 3 weeks, 63 New Bond Street, London W1, and Brent Cross, Ricemans of Canterbury, Fenwick of Newcastle, Tunbridge Wells, Windsor, York and Leicester.
Harvey Nichols Knightsbridge, London SW1 and in Leeds.
Liberty Regent Street, London W1.
Selfridges for about a month, Oxford Street, London W1.
ALREADY ON
British Home Stores nationwide.
SHOES
STARTED MONDAY
Jones Bootmakers branches across London.
Pied à Terre 31 Old Bond Street, London W1 and all branches in London, Manchester, Glasgow, Brighton, Brent Cross and Lakeside Shopping Centre (details 0171-499 9204).
ALREADY ON
Church's, Ravel.
HOMES & INTERIORS
STARTED MONDAY
Heal's until 19 Jan, 146 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (0171-436 1666) and stores in London and Guildford.
The Pier Stores around the country, including King's Road, London SW3.
Royal Worcester Spode
126 Regent St, London W1.

Bridget Jones's Diary

1 January-31 December 1996: A summary

Total weight lost: 5st 2lb (vg)
Total weight gained: 5st 3lb
Alcohol units: 3,836
Cigarettes: 5,277
Calories: 11,090,265 (bad)
Correct lottery numbers: 42 (vg)
Incorrect lottery numbers: 587
(sort of thing that could happen to anyone)
Total Instantans purchased: 98
Total Instantans winnings: £101
Total Instantans profit: £3 (Yesss!)
Yesss! Have beaten system while supporting worthwhile causes in manner of benefactor
1471 calls: 721 (approx)
Violentins: 1 (vg)
Christmas cards: 33 (vg)
Positive thoughts: 4 (vg)
Hangover-free days: 74 (vg)
Boyfriends: 1 (vg)
Number of New Year's Resolutions kept: 0
A quite promising year's progress.

Monday 30 December
Flying home from lovely skiing holiday. Cannot believe quantity of food have consumed over festive period. Wonder how much weight it is technically possible to put on in one day? If you ate the most fattening things you could think of without being sick or stopping, how long would it take the fat to grow, and how much could be produced at any one time? Therefore how much could be put on in seven days of some?

Humph. Just asked Mark Darcy, who said I had to shut up or will tell air hostess to put me in jump seat.
Anyway, life is going to be completely different when get back. Am not going to smoke or drink and am going to be much more for top of things with Mum. For example am going to tell her Mark Darcy and I cannot come to Una and Geoffrey Alconbury's New Year's Day Turkey Curry Buffet in puffed and adult manner. Also am going to really take pleasure from just being at home putting photographs in albums instead of going out to 192 all the time.
Noon Back In flat. Aargh. Terrified re-ringing Mum. Last year Mum, Una and Elaine Darcy spent entire time at the Buffet trying to get me and



Mark Darcy off with each other. Mark Darcy says reappearing as successfully-mated offspring would be not only intolerable (as we would be like pair of performing seals forced to have sex in front of assembled company etc), but irresponsible since Mum would spontaneously burst like Oscar Wilde with smugness then die, which would detract from festive atmosphere.
12.30 Just called Mum. "Oh hello, darling, how are you?" she trilled casually, apparently

disbelievingly. It was like in a film when someone has thrown a grenade, everyone is tensed for it to go off, and it doesn't. Had Mum finally seen sense, or gone over the edge?

"Anyway, Marjorie couldn't get hold of this hen through the flap so she went in herself and the door locked shut. Well, when Ray came home he couldn't find her anywhere till he went for the eggs. No, Una's a very selfish, evil woman."

"Mum," I said levelly, trying to be like Mark Darcy and responsible, wondering if I should ring an ambulance. "could you bring Dad to the telephone, please?"

"What's going on?" I hissed, when Dad came on the phone. "Oh God," he moaned, quietly.

"What? What?"

"It's Mum and Una. It's *Apocalypse Now*. They both turned up on Christmas Day in the same purple paisley Jaeger

Aargh, aargh. Is 7 in morning. Have slept through New Year's Eve and missed Mark Darcy date. Is pitch black. Help.

failing to notice my absence for entire Christmas period.

"Hang on a tick. Just saying goodbye to Marjorie." She dropped her voice. "You know Ray and Marjorie, don't you, darling — they have hen hats. Marjorie was trying to get hold of this special hen for some unknown reason and ... ooh hang on, the timer's off on the microwave." She then left me sitting on the phone for nine minutes. After spending three minutes yelling, "Mum, Mum," I put the phone down only to have it ring back immediately. "Briget," Mum hissed dangerously. "Putting the phone down on another person is Very. Very. Rude."

"Mum, about Auntie Una's Turkey Curry Buffet we can't come." I blurted, getting down under the table, ready. "Oh that doesn't matter darling!" she purred. "Daddy and I aren't going, either." I froze, grabbing the table leg.

two-piece."

Mum grabbed the phone. "Don't exaggerate, Colin. They were Country Casuals seconds. We both bought them together at the mill shop but I saw it first and Una agreed that she wouldn't wear it without checking with me first. Of course, when she walked in I was absolutely livid, and in front of Marjorie — I mean Marjorie's been in the hen hat and she's a bag of nerves."

The upshot of it is I have to go to Mum and Dad's all day tomorrow for New Year's Day all on my own. Oh no. 1pm Wonder what to do now? Oh yes. Better unpack. 1.15pm Hate the thought of the horrible unpacking. Is bad enough coming home to mad mother without having to unpack. Maybe will have cigarette. No. Mustn't smoke. 1.20pm Mum. Cigarette is delicious. Now. Where's the photograph album? 1.30pm Is no good. Hate

being in singleton flat all on own. Was so lovely being away in chalet with all people around all the time (even if Yuppie-Sloane Ranger-style lawyers). Dread thought of getting up in morning with no one to fool around with: no using fact that everyone keeps getting into the bathroom before you as excuse for not getting dressed or washed for hours and hours, sitting at kitchen table gossiping. Wish lived in commune with all chums then would never be alone and could muck about having fun all day.
1.45pm Mum. Maybe will have a little drink to calm nerves. No. Will go round to Tom's and give him Eric Cantona calendar Christmas present (v amusing-style gift as Tom loves Eric Cantona.) Ooh goody, telephone.
1.50pm Was Tom, complaining that all he has been given for Christmas is five copies of the Eric Cantona calendar. Oh God. Am going to ring Jude and Shazzer and see if they want to come to 192.
4pm Argor esblurry goofun seeinggirlsgagan. Maybe havelittle sleepy now. Oops. 7 o'clock am? pm? Aargh, aargh, Mark Darcy is talking on Ansafone. Oh God. Is 7 in morning. Have slept through New Year's Eve and missed Mark Darcy date. Is pitch black. Help. Cannot find telephone.
7.30pm Even when all seems darkness is light at end of tunnel. Was not the morning but evening, therefore still time to sober up and go out with Mark Darcy. Also, Jude and Shazzer had marvellous news. Apparently new pill has been invented in America whereby all fat is quickly sent instead of to fat areas, to colon and converted immediately into poo. Apparently wonder pill will be available here in one month only. Hurrah. We can all look forward to New Year eating exactly what want with perfect figures. All need now is further pills for alcohol units and cigarettes converting hangovers, liver-failure and tar immediately into poo and will be no need whatsoever for New Year's Resolutions any more. Happy 1997 everybody! Hurrah!

Happy New Year

Happy New York

Happy New Fare

from £199

If you book with Continental by 17th January and fly before 15th March

Continental Airlines fly from both London Gatwick and Manchester to New York every day. And at fares starting from £199 return there is absolutely no excuse for putting off that romantic weekend or shopping trip any longer. For details of this New York fare together with irresistible fares to other destinations call your travel agent or Continental Airlines on 0800 776464 now.

Continental Airlines



Fares do not include airport taxes and are subject to limited availability. Fares are subject to government approval and are for travel commencing from 10th January to 15th March. All travel must be completed by 15th March 1997.

سكزا من الراجل

the leader page

Long live peace, independence and Schubert

Today is the day of pious hopes after the maudlin reminiscences of the night before. So let us, in optimistic spirit, set out what we would like to see in 1997.

Important things first. We hope everyone decides to listen to all of Schubert's works, as it is his bicentenary this year. A year spent in adoration of Schubert would improve everyone's quality of life, and remind us what can be achieved by someone who died at 31 having written more great songs even than Sir Paul McCartney. We hope Jarvis Cocker brings out a new album, so that at least for a week or two we hear less about Liam Gallagher and the delightful Spice Gals. We hope Princess Diana remarries happily, preferably a fantastically wealthy Latin American salsa dancer, who takes her back to his central American republic, since it is the only way we are going to see an end to that sorry tale. And, towards the more speculative end of the spectrum, we hope England win at least one cricket match before 1997 draws to a close, just to give the Scots, Welsh and Irish a break from English self-pity.

The coming year also contains some more predictable milestones. This is the year we hand over Hong Kong, our last big imperial possession. The real story, though, is not what will happen to Hong Kong, but what will happen in China. Not just in 1997, but over the next decade, it is important that the world's democratised powers recognise that there is one exceedingly important country where the values of liberal democracy do not hold sway. As economic growth and social change transform China, the dangers of friction are high.

The new year also brings a heavy responsibility to maintain the perilous peace of the Middle East. Yesterday's painstaking movement towards agreement on Hebron means that optimism looks like winning out over pessimism on the first day of this year. We hope Benjamin Netanyahu, Yasser Arafat and the new US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, continue to devote their energies to sustaining and bedding-in peace over the remaining 364 days.

At home, we know at least one event for sure: 1997 is the year of a general election. All elections are described in advance as the most important since the war, or 1906, or whenever, but this one has a better claim than many to real significance. It could mark the end of 18 years of one-party rule; and it falls just before a great treaty-revision conference to set the future course of the European Union.

As yet, we have not decided which party we want to see win the election. This is not indecision or cynicism on our part, but firm adherence to the spirit of independence and impartiality of judgement which founded this newspaper. We keep an open mind in our pursuit of the ideal of objective reporting, but that does not mean we will dodge the decision when it comes. Come the day, we will say who we think should run the country. Between now and then, we will set some very particular yardsticks against which we will judge the parties, and party leaders, when the day comes.

Surprisingly, perhaps, the usual issues of tax and economic policy are not the dominant ones. Though important, we believe that there is a remark-



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL
TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2485 / 0171-345 2485

able degree of consensus on how to run a modern liberal economy in Britain. That does not mean we shall let the parties avoid questions about raising revenue and spending public funds. In passing, we must observe that it reflects poorly on Tony Blair that he and Gordon Brown appear to disagree at this late stage on whether there should be a 50p tax rate on incomes over £100,000 a year. Clearly our record over this past year has been intensely critical of John Major's government – but we have reservations about Labour, not least its commitment to the free market. We would feel much happier with Mr Blair and his colleagues if, for example, they signalled clearly their willingness to tackle such vested interests as the Murdoch press.

But the big tests for us are not mainly economic, because the differences

between the parties are relatively minor. The big questions are constitutional. And of those, the first is our desire to see a government committed to an active and constructive role in Europe. This requires the combination of a basically pro-European orientation, ruthless defence of the national interest and hard negotiating skill. John Major has shown all three in the past, but he is shackled by the anti-Europeanism of the majority of his party. Our concern about the single currency, and the European "project" generally, is its imperfectly democratic construction. We have not yet heard enough from our politicians about how to bring the elites and the peoples of Europe closer together.

Our undemocratic machinery of power needs reform, and we hope the British people will elect a government

committed to that change. It is time to take stock, and give the people of this country a more fundamental say in how they are governed, and in return to ask them to take some responsibility. That is why we favour transferring power away from Westminster and Whitehall to a Scottish parliament and a Welsh assembly. If, and it is a big if, there is genuine popular desire for an assembly in the North-east or the South-west of England, then they should come into being, too.

Only by mobilising genuine local democracy can we break the back of the quangocracy. This does not mean going back to local councils as they were BT (Before Thatcher); it means experimenting with new ideas, such as those propounded by Michael Heseltine and others, for directly-elected mayors, and compact city executives.

Of course, we hope that one of the consequences of this year's election will be the abolition of the rights of hereditary peers. Some of the more recherché arguments now deployed in their defence only make the case the more convincing. This week Simon Heffer, the Thatcherite writer, published a pamphlet which concluded with the clincher that inheriting a fortune allows "much more influence in society" than inheriting a peerage. Now, that's not an argument most Conservatives would want to push too far. One of the advantages of sweeping out the hereditary peers is that it will start a debate about what kind of parliament we want.

Above all, however, we would like to see a national debate about the way we elect the House of Commons. In a

sense, the next election will be wasted if it does not produce a clear choice for the electorate about the voting system itself. Indeed, if 1997 is to mark a new direction in Europe, then it may need electoral reform to underpin it – to ensure that the government continues to represent the majority of its citizens. Labour's promise of a referendum on electoral reform is therefore the neglected key to the coming election, and we shall be pressing Mr Blair to tell us more about his reasons for personally opposing change.

The final test is education policy, since the parties' positions on how to improve education tell us almost everything we need to know about their culture. Are they about heading backwards, either to rule by teaching unions, or rule by divisive class systems? Are they about blithe promises of raised standards, or hard commitments to improve discipline and raise aspiration?

Naturally some readers will disagree in some measure with some of the above. One hope, however, we suspect they would all nurture along with us: that the IRA decides, as hinted, to call a pre-election ceasefire, which is then sustained after the election. An end to Northern Ireland violence alone might be enough to make us feel 1997 had been worthwhile.

Inevitably, we hope for a few other things – that all our readers win the lottery and take out full year's subscriptions, for example, or that someone, somewhere, comes up with a good idea for celebrating the millennium. But we only make one resolution: to remember that we are – and so are you.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Europe needs resolution to ban racism

Sir: 1997 is the European Year against racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism. It also happens to be the year in which the European Treaties are to be amended, and in which one of the proposed amendments would outlaw racial and religious discrimination. Will such a proposal succeed? It seems unthinkable that it should fail, but one member of government – our own – is openly opposed to any extension of European Community competence and of the sphere of the European Court of Justice, while a few others are reluctant to support a "race" amendment but for the moment are sheltering behind the British position.

It is virtually certain that there will, for the first time, be some mention of racism in the Treaty. But much depends on the wording and placing of a new article. European Community competence would open the way to European legislation and a common standard of protection throughout the Union against discrimination. But if the tackling of racism is left to inter-governmental action there could be little or no practical progress.

An amendment authorising Community action was proposed by the Kahn Commission, a body set up with the unanimous consent of member states in 1994. The wording this group proposed was almost identical to the amendment suggested earlier by an independent group of experts, the Starting Line group.

It will be a serious setback to human rights in Europe if the European year marks the rejection of an effective Treaty amendment. A heavy responsibility rests on our next government.

ANN DUMMETT
Member, Starting Line group
Oxford

Sir: I read with dismay ("Europe blocks duty-free drinks for the troops", 26 December) that the other members of the European Union are unlikely unanimously to back a request by the Government for Commonwealth troops to receive duty-free goods whilst stationed in the United Kingdom.

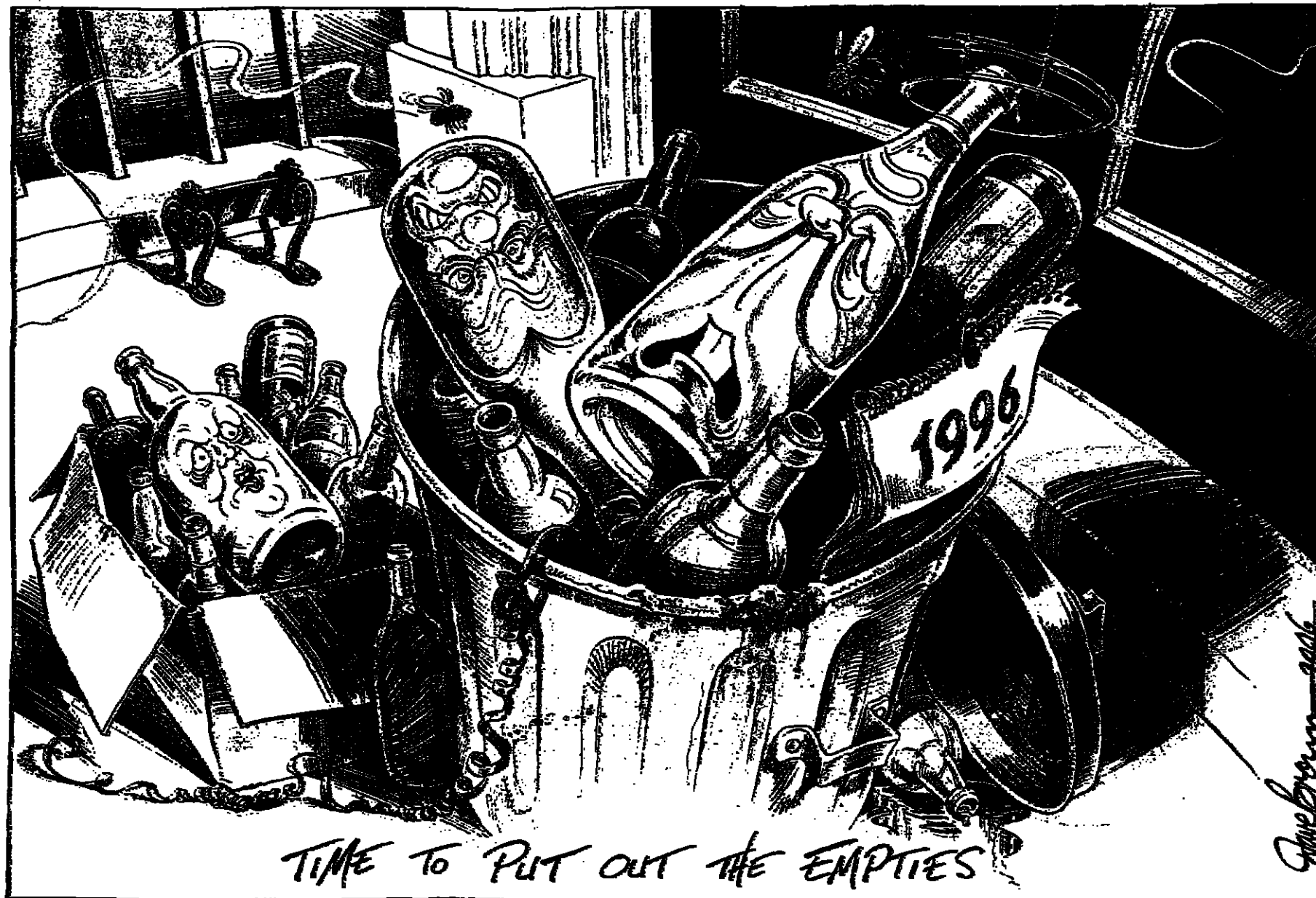
Perhaps the Foreign Office should approach each EU member individually, asking them if they have any objection to this practice – reminding them that there was none during the Second World War, when troops from many Commonwealth countries helped to liberate European countries.

LESLIE FREITAG
Harpden, Hertfordshire

Exorcise the Imp

Sir: How pathetic to read that the Bishop of Lincoln felt unable to preach his message of peace this Christmas in his own cathedral, because it is enveloped in feuding ("The season of ill-will", 26 December). It is clear that the Lincoln Imp, turned to stone by the angels for his mischievous and troublesome ways, is at it again. He should be exorcised by the Bishop.

CYNTHIA COULTHARD
Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire



Millennium help for the homeless

Sir: Perhaps the Prince of Wales, Mr Costa and Holy Trinity Brompton have not noticed that every church in the land is practically empty except at Christmas and Easter. So why build yet another one – capable of seating 10,000, what's more – in Battersea? (Prince of Wales places faith in church centre", 30 December)

A far more Christian use of lottery money and matching private funds would be to use the whole site for the satellite projects with, as its focus, a wonderful modern hostel and de-tox centre to house and feed the homeless and those who still sleep on our streets. Not as glamorous, but of far more value and something that really does face up to the problems we still have in our society at the end of this millennium.

The Church for its part might consider how many of its redundant buildings throughout the land could also be used in this way and make lottery bids for their conversion – providing of course, that it would be prepared to accept money generated from gambling.

Sir TERENCE CONRAN
London SE1

pressure dome", 23 December; letters, 24 December), why can't we simply determine to spend the same money on making sure that there will be no homeless people having to sleep on the streets of our cities and towns by the year 2000? PETER WINCHESTER
Oxford

Dawkins and the divine 'joke'

Sir: Richard Dawkins does his scientific background a disservice ("Surely, you must be joking", 24 December) since he bases his conclusion on only some of the relevant knowledge available to him.

Christmas and Easter (which he is right to link together) are not just about forgiveness or mercy; they are also about justice. God is both a just God and a forgiving God. If God punishes all sin, then he is perfectly just but without mercy. If he forgives all sin, then he is perfectly merciful but at the expense of justice. That is why God could not, as Richard Dawkins argues, "just go right ahead and forgive us".

True forgiveness has a cost, both to the one who forgives (who has to accept a wrong and set it aside) and

the one who is forgiven (who has to accept that they have done wrong and deserve punishment). This conflict between justice and mercy is resolved through Christ.

God the Father and God the Son agreed willingly out of love for mankind that Christ would come to earth, knowing that He would be cruelly put to death, to satisfy the need for justice so that God could then exercise mercy. Christ pays the debt of men and women to God, just as someone might pay the fine for a convicted criminal today.

As Paul puts it in his letter to the Romans, "God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners [ie enemies of God] Christ died for us." GORDON WHITEHEAD
Ripon, North Yorkshire

Sir: The Rev David Clemens (letter, 27 December) states that "you don't get bitter or offensive about something you don't care tuppence for", and implies that Richard Dawkins must therefore care deeply for the "truths of Christian belief" that he inveighs against.

The first notion is patently absurd. Terrorism, Nazism, pollution are regularly subjected to extreme animadversion from a wide range of people, not because they

harbour a deep desire to cherish and nurture them but because they would like to see them wiped from the face of the earth.

Theologies of the Incarnation and the Atonement may well exist. So what? To people who do not believe in a god, these are no more than cute fairy stories. Introduce a mythical "supreme being" element into European folk tales or the Greek myths and you have a theology. Where does that get us?

Religion is certainly an extensive and significant part of human behaviour. It requires careful study and analysis, in the hope that we may one day find a cure. ADRIAN DEERE-JONES
Glynneath, West Glamorgan

Sir: Whenever I read any of Richard Dawkins' work I am reminded that his expertise lies in genetics. We would not think of soliciting his opinion on any other subject, such as meteorology or Mayan hieroglyphics. Why should we feel he has any special skills as a theologian?

If we learn anything from his column, it is from the slightly desperate tone that hints at a fear that there might – just – be something greater than Richard Dawkins after all. Dr N J CARR
Farnham, Hampshire

Unknown risks of modified food

Sir: I have never read such an irresponsible article in your paper as that by Nicholas Schoon on genetically modified food ("Nothing to fear from techno-corn", 11 December).

One of the main problems with genetically modified crops that are released into the environment is that the changes they engender will be irreversible. Given the huge capacity for destruction for individuals and the environment, all that is required is much more caution.

There is absolutely no research on the long-term health and nutritional effects of genetically modified organisms, and it is the simplest common sense to argue that very full research should be required before proceeding with such fundamental changes.

The main motive of many of the supplier companies is simply money, and to imply that we just have to accept the forced imposition of their policies because they cannot wait is defeatism beyond belief.

I doubt that Mr Schoon would be quite so philosophical if a member of his family were included among those injured or killed when one of the mistakes he confidently predicts occurs. DIANE MILLER
Cardiff

Where goats are a winter pest

Sir: Your charming picture of the goats on Great Orme Head (23 December) illustrates one side of a controversy: the text hints at another. Another photograph might have shown diseased and filthy goats at the end of a hard winter, foraging in streets and gardens, and at risk of death or injury from traffic or as they jump from wall to garden wall.

When animals are artificially maintained in the absence of predators, they are liable to increase to levels which cannot be maintained, and so harm themselves and the environment. Summer visitors, who usually see them only when food is plentiful, and who have petitioned for the abandonment of a cull aimed at reducing the herd to a sustainable level, have little idea how different the situation can be in winter.

There would rightly be protests if our Orme shepherds were so foolish as to try to maintain much larger herds of sheep on the Orme grassland than it can properly support. Yet no one will take responsibility for the goats, an introduced species much diluted by domestic strains and now most remarkable for their penetrating stench.

Having interfered with Nature, it is our duty to manage wildlife, albeit with a light hand, and not to allow it to become unbalanced in distressing booms and busts. Much of the Great Orme is already a Site of Special Scientific Interest, with a wild conifer forest unique in Britain and other rare and beautiful plants as well as the notable seabird colonies.

The goat, with its ability to graze just those areas that sheep cannot reach, will help to destroy this remarkable environment.

BLH WILSON
Llandudno, Gwynedd

Gay blood donors shunned

Sir: I was interested to read Graham Jarrett's letter (24 December) explaining why his wife was excluded from donating blood. I also responded to an appeal for more donations, in the summer of 1995 when there was a depletion in the level of blood stocks. However, I am excluded from donating blood for a very different reason.

The National Blood Transfusion Service's donor selection criteria inform potential male donors: "You must not give blood if... you have ever had sex with another man." As a male homosexual I am automatically classified as belonging to a "high-risk group", regardless of the fact that I have taken heed of the safer-sex guidelines of the past decade.

Mr Jarrett is right to point out that the BTS is appealing to a very small donor base and so will continue to experience severe shortages, particularly at demanding periods such as Christmas. I acknowledge that the BTS has a responsibility to ensure no infected blood enters the system, but I believe it is possible to do so without ostracising certain sectors of society. VINCENT FINNEY
Edinburgh

صكنا من الامم



Here they are a relatively minor menace but the Catholic Church's stance on these matters continues to cause untold suffering round the world. There might be more sympathy if the Pope took into the Vatican all the unwanted street children of Catholic Brazil, born as a direct result of Catholic teaching. Or if the pro-Lifers were as active about the massacres of those children as they are in defence of British fetuses.

a relatively minor menace but
church's stance on these matters
use untold suffering round the
might be more sympathy if the
the Vatican all the unwanted
of Catholic Brazil, born as a
Catholic teaching. Or if the
as active about the massacres
en as they are in defence of

Capital punishment is not the only aspect of Sharia that is not understood because it is never intelligently discussed in the Western media. There are numerous other examples. According to the Sharia, a wife, in the marriage contract, can retain the right to divorce and can specify the financial settlement when a divorce occurs. This is perhaps more advanced

second Caliph, Omar, suspended this punishment altogether. Many modern Muslim scholars argue that unless a Muslim state introduces a comprehensive welfare system, it has no business applying this punishment.

Adultery is also presented in a most misleading way. According to the Sharia, adultery cannot be established unless four witnesses convince the court

Why Islam's law bewilders the West



Lucille McLaughlan (left) is charged with the murder of Yvonne Gilford in Saudi Arabia

second Caliph, Omar, suspended this punishment altogether. Many modern Muslim scholars argue that unless a Muslim state introduces a comprehensive welfare system, it has no business applying this punishment.

Adultery is also presented in a most misleading way. According to the Sharia, adultery cannot be established unless four witnesses convince the court

sions between Islam and the West have little to do with theology and very much with politics. Western propagandists denounce Islam for not respecting the Western human rights code, *circa* 1997; Muslim apologists counter by saying that Islam introduced most of these rights 14 centuries ago, thus making them "divine" rights, which no one can take away.

NI New Interna
John does
SO HE DOESN'T KNOW that free
economics is making poor people

The writer is Saudi Arabia's ambasssador in London.

A citizens' charter to save our cities

A fatal powerlessness has emerged at the heart of our cities, bringing with it demoralisation, poverty and violence. 'Broad-based organising' offers one realistic model for civic renewal

Some would have us believe that these trends are inevitable. Social fragmentation is the price to pay for our prosperity and individual freedoms. Not so. We are sociable and political animals, but we urgently need to find practical ways of building social capital. Politicians of all parties now share a common rhetoric of social cohesion and community spirit, but they don't know how to put civil society back together again.

model for civic
renewal

These broad-based organisations have a strong moral agenda. One of their first actions pushed the Bristol and West Building Society into heavy donations and new policies on homelessness. They worked on Hanson to develop a vacant industrial site in the job-starved south of Bristol (where, as one Hanson executive charmingly put it, he "wouldn't let his dog live"). They have closed crack houses in Bristol and brought the fly-tipping mafia to court in Liverpool. A number of successful actions have been fought across the country to pressure com-

deplore the splintering of the community into weak, narrow sectional interests. They are diverse, and bring together schools and tenants groups, Christians and Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus, black and white, young and old, working class and middle class. They build an agenda for action around shared interests.

Fourth, permanence. Corporate executives and politicians are skilful at handling sporadic outbursts of anger from the community, which generally fade when energy and resources wane. But broad-based

'Organising a Civil Society' by Peter Stokes and Barry Knight (£12 incl P&P) is available from the Foundation for Civil Society, 200 Bunbury Road, Birmingham B31 2DL (0121 4768705).

'Organising a Civil Society' by Peter Stokes and Barry Knighl (£12 incl P&P) is available from the Foundation for Civil Society, 200 Bunbury Road, Birmingham B31 2DL (0121 4768705)

obituaries / gazette

Lew Ayres

As the young German conscript who becomes a resigned pacifist in Lewis Milestone's brilliant anti-war film *All Quiet on the Western Front* (1930), Lew Ayres created an indelible portrait of disillusioned youth. Ironically, in 1941 he was to become the most publicised conscientious objector of the Second World War, vilified by press and public for his views (reputedly formed by his appearance in the Milestone film). He will also forever be associated with Dr Kildare, the idealistic young surgeon he played in nine films of a popular series. After redeeming himself by serving as a medic and risking his life on the battlefield, he returned to Hollywood and an Oscar nomination for his role in *Johnny Belinda*, though the promise of his auspicious start as a Hollywood star was never totally fulfilled.

Born Lewis Frederick Ayre in 1908, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, he studied medicine at the University of Arizona but was more interested in music, playing banjo in the college orchestra. While playing with a dance band at Coconut Grove in Hollywood, he was spotted by the talent scout Paul Bern and after a minor role in *The Sophomore* (1929) was signed by MGM to play opposite Garbo in her last silent film, *The Kiss* (1929).

Lewis Milestone, about to direct *All Quiet on the Western Front* at Universal, had decided to cast Douglas Fairbanks Jr in the lead, though Bern suggested Ayres for the role. The film's dialogue director, George Cukor, shot a test of Ayres (along with other hopefuls) and Milestone saw in the day that United Artists (who had Fairbanks under contract) informed him that they would not loan their star. Ayres later stated, "Milestone told me time and time again that if I had made the tests earlier I probably never would have been chosen."

As one of a bunch of schoolboys persuaded by their jingoistic master to enlist in the war,

only to become disillusioned as they are decimated in futile military action, Ayres perfectly captured the pain and resignation of innocence betrayed. Asked while on leave to lecture to a group of young students about the glories of war, he makes a tentative start then angrily tells them, "When it comes to dying for your country, it is better not to die at all!", provoking hisses and boos. Equally memorable is the famous ending, where a sniper's bullet ends the boy's life as he reaches from his trench for a butterfly.

Signed to a contract by Universal, Ayres was loaned to Warners to play a feared gangster boss in *Doorway to Hell* (1930), a monumental piece of miscasting. (James Cagney's presence in the cast, as one of Ayres's henchmen, only made the boyishly innocent Ayres look more incongruous.) He made over 20 films, mostly routine fare that slowly eroded his reputation, over the next few years, and in 1936 tried directing with *Hears in Bondage*, which was not a success. Now starring in B-movies, he told a reporter, "Hollywood, quick to acclaim, soon washed its hands of me - and the snubs you get sliding down aren't nearly as pleasant as the smiles going up."

He was given his first good role in years when George Cukor offered him the part of Katharine Hepburn's brother in *Holiday* (1938), a beautiful screen adaptation of Philip Barry's play and one of the finest of Thirties comedy-dramas. Ayres, who confessed to having "coasted" through many of his previous roles, made his role as a young alcoholic socialite wistfully enduring, though the film belonged to its stars Hepburn and Cary Grant.

The same year MGM cast Ayres in the title-role of a B-picture, *Young Doctor Kildare*, as an intern working under the guidance and watchful eye of elderly Dr Gillespie (Lionel Barrymore). A great hit, the film started a series, and Ayres was working on his 10th when he was drafted to serve in the Second World War and he refused combat duty on religious grounds.

His career seemed over. Louis B. Mayer fired him and re-shot his scenes with Philip Dorn. Exhibitors refused to book films in which he appeared, pickets appeared outside cinemas that tried to show the Kildare films, and *Variety* called him "a disgrace to the industry."

After working in a labour camp, Ayres volunteered for non-combatant duties and served on the battlefield as a medic and chaplain's aide.



"When it comes to dying for your country, better not to die at all" Ayres in *All Quiet on the Western Front*

Though he had decided to retire from movies, he changed his mind while overseas. "I realised how important movies are to the lives of so many people," he said.

Restored to favour, he starred opposite Olivia de Havilland in Robert Siodmak's *The Dark Mirror* (1946), but later confessed dissatisfaction with his work. "As a psychiatrist investigating a murderer, one of whom is a murderer. I played it too lightly. My character should have struggled and sweated more. I did too much smiling."

In Vincent Sherman's *The Unfaithful* (1947), a splendid melodrama that effectively reworked Maugham's *The Letter* to deal with the subject of wartime infidelity, he was a lawyer who defends Ann Sheridan on a charge of murder and also tries to salvage her marriage to a returning soldier, Zachary Scott.

His next film, *Johnny Belinda* (1948), won him a Best Actor Oscar nomination for his sincere portrayal of a doctor who teaches a deaf and dumb Jane Wyman how to communicate, though Ayres was not

happy with Jean Negulesco as director. "He was artistic and very over-the-top, but none of us felt he was on target with the characterisations, so the actors became their own directors. Jane, Charles Bickford, Agnes Moorehead and myself respected each other's opinions, so after Jane and I did a scene we'd look at Charles and Agnes. If they nodded, we would proceed; if they shook their heads, we'd do the scene again."

With roles once again becoming scarce, he embarked on a world tour in 1954 to compile a documentary, *Alors of the East*, which he wrote, produced, narrated and financed. A probing of the frontiers of faith, it started a decade's study of comparative religion ("the most meaningful thing I have ever done") and production of several documentaries on the world's religions. In 1957 he was appointed by the Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, to serve a three-year term on the US National Committee for UNESCO.

Returning to acting as a character player, he was a frequent performer in television plays and movies, plus occasional

big-screen roles, among them *Advice and Consent* (1962), *Battle for the Planet of the Apes* (1973) and *Damien - Omen II* (1978). "I still act occasionally," he said recently, "but I'm in my eighties and have never had my face lifted, so there aren't a lot of roles."

Two early marriages were unsuccessful - to Lola Lane (1931-33) and Ginger Rogers (1933-40) - but in 1964 he married an Englishwoman, Diana Hall, and the day before his 60th birthday she gave birth to their son, Justin.

"If I were young again," Ayres said, "I don't think I'd be an actor. I've met some wonderful people, and it made many things possible for me, but if I had it all to do over again, my field would be philosophy."

Tom Vallance

Lewis Frederick Ayre (Lew Ayres), actor: born Minneapolis, Minnesota 28 December 1908; married 1931 Lola Lane (marriage dissolved 1933), 1933 Ginger Rogers (marriage dissolved 1940), 1964 Diana Hall (one son); died Los Angeles 30 December 1996.

Professor James Cross

James Cross was one of the great Anglo-Saxon scholars of his generation. For 20 years he was Baines Professor of English Language at Liverpool University, but continued an active research career after his retirement in 1985.

He had a wide range of scholarly interests in the early period, from Old Swedish to late Middle English literature, but his principal contribution was in the study of what might be called the intellectual underpinning of Anglo-Saxon writing: the use of motifs from Isidore, images from St Augustine, exotic details from neglected Latin writers. He was an indefatigable researcher who could never believe that others might not share his boundless enthusiasm for the latest discovery, and would daily arrive in the senior common room in Liverpool to tell of the significant reading which would trace a detail to this authority rather than another.

The channels by which knowledge passed in the early Middle Ages were a particular passion with him. His forte was not the massive scholarly book, decades in the making, but the short article or monograph that was almost work in progress, turned out at the rate of three or four a year and with the ink barely dry; editors became used to Cross's need to rewrite in proof because he had continued to turn up new evidence since submitting an article. His discoveries were always provisional because he worked with material that had seldom been investigated, and there was no false embarrassment about returning to a subject and acknowledging that an earlier piece had been overtaken by his own subsequent research.

In his early years he worked on identifying the influence of leading patristic authors and themes on Anglo-Saxon poetry; but increasingly his interest turned to prose - and to the influence of lesser-known Latin texts or particular versions of them known in England. He made a major contribution to the understanding of the sources for Ælfric of Eynsham's work, and more recently produced a series of studies which demonstrated the range of learning which lay behind the ninth-century text *The Old English Martyrology*. A particular interest of recent years was the influence of little-known Irish writing on the Anglo-Saxons.

Cross was born in 1920 in the Forest of Dean, and went to Bristol University in 1938. After Second World War service in North Africa and Europe, he returned to Bristol and graduated in 1947, with first class honours in English. A further year at Bristol studying for the Diploma in Education was fol-

lowed by two years in Sweden, teaching at Lund University, and he then returned to Bristol as a lecturer in English, being promoted to Reader in 1962 (a year which also saw his award of a doctorate by Lund University for his collected publications).

Then in 1965 he became Baines Professor of English Language at Liverpool University, in succession to Simon on Potter. There, as head of the English Language department, he worked in mostly amicable partnership with the head of the English Literature department, Kenneth Muir, and subsequently negotiated the combination of the two departments with Muir's successor, Philip Edwards. He was passionately committed to the work of the Language department in all its manifestations, determined to encourage appointments in Old Norse and Linguistics as well as the mainstream activities in Old English and Middle English. He taught Old English and Chaucer with particular enthusiasm, and had an unshakeable belief in the importance of encouraging the young.

As a head of department he was generous and positive, especially in encouraging research, and widely trusted as a fair and honest university administrator who always spoke his mind - even if at times it occurred to him afterwards that it might have been better not to.

Liverpool offered few opportunities for Cross to build up a significant research school, and his impact might have been greater if he had found himself working in a larger research community. But he compensated by his own assiduous participation in international projects and conferences, and by his enthusiasm for enlisting colleagues in collaborative ventures. The verbatim transcript of discussion at the Toronto meeting which launched the new *Old English Dictionary* in 1971, subsequently published in the proceedings, includes a delightful record of Cross's interventions, *aperçus*, and thoughts-in-progress.

More recently he played an important part in the early development of twin projects on the inter-relationships of Anglo-Saxon writings and their Latin antecedents - the American-based project, *Sources for Anglo-Saxon Literary Culture*, and the British-based *Fonies Anglo-Saxonici*. In 1982 he produced in collaboration with Tom Hill of Cornell University an edition of two esoteric collections of Anglo-Saxon lore, *Solomon and Saturn* and *Adrian and Ritheus*, with voluminous commentary on sources and analogues for the stranger details, and in the same year, this

time in collaboration with Joyce Bazire of his own department, an edition of anonymous Old English Rogationtide homilies. With retirement, in 1985, he became a full-time researcher and his output increased further. In 1987 he published an analysis and partial edition of a Latin homiliary preserved in a Pembroke College, Cambridge manuscript, whose importance as a source-collection for anonymous Old English homilies he had been the first to identify. In 1993 he produced, in collaboration with Jennifer Morrish Tunberg, a facsimile edition of a Copenhagen manuscript containing a range of texts associated with Archbishop Wulfstan. A month before his death he published an edition of two more anonymous Old English texts with their manuscript sources, having identified for the first time the actual manuscript of a Latin source used by an Anglo-Saxon writer. And he was working on another important



Cross: boundless enthusiasm

collection of Anglo-Saxon texts when he died.

His distinction and achievements were increasingly recognised abroad: in 1996 he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Jaume in Spain, and the International Congress of Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo included a symposium in his honour.

Jimmy Cross owed much to the support of his wife, Joyce, and his excursions were in recent years restricted by his concerns over her own ill-health; but with her encouragement he continued the total commitment to research in Anglo-Saxon literature and learning which had marked the whole of his career.

Malcolm Godden

James Edwin Cross, Anglo-Saxon scholar: born Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire 20 July 1920; Baines Professor of English Language, Liverpool University 1965-85; (Emmerus); married 1944 Joyce Bower (one son, one daughter); died Birkenhead, Merseyside 18 December 1996.

Bishop Gottfried Forck



An East German tutor: Forck (right) with Archbishop German (left), of the Russian Orthodox Church, and the Bishop of Coventry, the Right Rev Simon Barrington-Ward, in Berlin in 1993

navy and, as an officer, became an American prisoner of war. Released in 1947, he read Theology in West Germany at Bethel and Heidelberg, where he gained a doctorate in 1956. By this time he had already volunteered for the much harder life of the East.

His first post was as chaplain in East Berlin University. After that came parish ministry, followed by nine years as head of a theological college and a further eight as Assistant Bishop (Superintendent-General) of the Cottbus region. It was with some reluctance that he allowed his name to go forward for what was, in effect, the most important bishopric in the country. His quiet good-humour notwithstanding, he never ceased to see this task as a heavy burden. He bore it with grace, but as life in East Germany became ever more intolerable, with increasing impatience. He did not hide his anger.

Young Christians were in revolt against East German militarism. The police pulled them in for wearing "swords to ploughshares" badges and threatened them with expulsion from school. So Forck walked to his office with the offensive badge on his briefcase. The police backed down. They no longer had the self-confidence

to arrest the Bishop of Berlin or to expel him like Kurt Scharf. When, in 1987, a number of prominent dissidents were arrested he used all his influence to save them from a long sentence or - what they feared most - exile to West Germany. In three cases he asked me, might not the Church of England invite them for a period of study in Britain? This the Communist

authorities might accept, and give them the right to return. And that is what happened. One of them, who studied for a year in Cambridge, is now a Member of Parliament in Bonn. At a meeting of his trusted Catholic and Protestant friends in Michael Passauer's flat, a few months before the wall came down (I had the privilege to be present as the only foreign

guest), he openly stated that critical solidarity with the status quo was no longer a legitimate Christian option. Before most others, he had read the writing on the wall. Had his words reached the Stasi, he might still have faced a charge of treason. He knowingly took that risk.

Gottfried Forck had explored the exodus of East Ger-

mans to West Germany and castigated Bonn for encouraging it, but at the same time, characteristically, defended their right to go, a right denied by the very existence of the Berlin Wall. Despite all that, Forck was not by nature a political bishop. It was his pastoral care for people, his perceived duty as a bishop that drove him to make many a stand.

It was equally characteristic that when the peaceful revolution succeeded and the Communist Party chief Honecker was imprisoned and then released because he was too ill to stand trial, Forck provided him with refuge in a church home. He pleaded that the officers of the Stasi who had so often made his life a misery, should now be treated with generosity and not revenge. He showed no trace of bitterness.

And he continued to defend East German interests in the face of what now felt like an insensate takeover by the West. Many of the values the Church had fought for in the East were now threatened, he feared, by the worship of the new golden calf, the all-powerful *Deutschmark*. His personal life had been happy and fulfilled. Of his five children four are musicians, reflecting Gottfried Forck's own love of music. His first wife

died in 1988. On his retirement in 1991 he moved to the small town of Riesa, where he lived alone, and married the local parson, the Pastorin, a former pupil, and until cancer laid him low he worked happily as her honorary curate. He was more in his element there than in the world of great affairs to which he had contributed so richly.

My last meeting with Gottfried Forck was on his last holiday, a visit to London this summer with his young wife to visit one of his musical children. He was at his happiest at a candle-lit concert at St Martin-in-the-Fields. On one of London's rare Mediterranean nights we then sat until well after midnight in Covent Garden Market, charmed by French waitresses and animated by French wine. That is how I shall remember him.

Paul Oestreicher

Gottfried Forck, pastor: born Ilmenau, Thuringia 6 October 1923; Chaplain, East Berlin University 1954-59; Principal, Brandenburg Theological Seminary 1963-72; Superintendent-General, Cottbus 1973-81; Bishop of East Berlin-Brandenburg 1981-91; married 1956 Renate Falkenberg (died 1988; three sons, two daughters); 1991 Beatrix, Zastrow; died Riesa 24 December 1996.

Soon after the Berlin Wall was built in 1961, Kurt Scharf, Bishop of the United Protestant Church of the Province of Berlin-Brandenburg, was exiled by the East German government to West Berlin, where he remained as a bishop of great distinction. The Communist rulers could not stomach this straight-talking churchman with a passionate commitment to human rights.

The eastern part of the Province was thereby forced to find a new leader and no doubt wise to elect in Albrecht Schönherr, an astute diplomat to steer the Church through the next 20 turbulent years. He was no fellow traveller, no apologist for Honecker's Soviet satellite, but with him discretion proved to be the better part of valour. His skilful diplomacy assured the Church not only of survival but of a higher public profile than many had thought possible.

But by 1981, when Schönherr retired, the mood had changed. All the hopes of real reform had come to nothing. The signs of stagnation and decay were increasingly obvious, though no one could predict that Communist power would not outlast the decade. What the Church now wanted was an outspoken leader more like Kurt Scharf.

In Gottfried Forck they

found him: unassuming, unpretentious, no careful tactician, but a deeply believing liberal evangelical with an unswerving commitment to a more just society. He did not stand on ceremony and was never to be seen in the frock coat and winged collar of a traditional Lutheran bishop.

He was no uncritical admirer of the West; his heart was with the grassroots dissidents who dreamed of a radically reformed East Germany. When their leaders went to prison, he was the first to spring to their defence. In appointing as his personal assistant Michael Passauer, for many years the trusted pastor to East Berlin's angry young Christians, he left no one in any doubt as to whose side he was on. So trusted was he by the democratic opposition who, before German unification, were to become East Germany's first and only freely elected government, that he was offered the post of State President. He turned it down: the post was left unfilled. Forck was a priest, not a politician: an East German tutor, though without the flamboyant charisma.

Born in 1923 in Ilmenau in the Province of Thuringia, the heartland of Lutheran tradition, a parson's son, he grew up in Hamburg, was drafted into the

DEATHS

LINDSEY-RENTON: Blanche Fox (née Auld). On 28 December 1996, at Gloucester House Nursing Home, Sevenoaks, Kent. Blanche Lindsey-Renton, aged 105 years, widow of the late George Henry Lindsey-Renton, of "Dovers", Reigate, Surrey. Funeral service to be held at Emmanuel Church, Sidlesham, near Reigate, Friday 10 January, 11.30am. No flowers. Donations preferred to: The Royal London Hospital League of Nurses, Central Office, The Royal London Hospital, Whitechapel Road, London E1 1BB. Enquiries: Stoneham Funeral Service, 01753 764456.

MONKS: Neale Cameron Stewart, of Berkhamstead, suddenly, on 27 December, aged 50 years. Beloved husband of Valerie, father of Parisa and Neale junior, brother of Judy Toftaine and David Monks. Funeral service on Wednesday 8 January at 10am at St Peter's Church, Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire, followed by private cremation. Donations in lieu of flowers please to SENSE, National Deaf-Blind and Rubella Association (founded by parents of deaf-blind children), 11-13 Clifton Terrace, Flaxbury

Births, Marriages & Deaths

Port, London N4 3SR. Enquiries to J. Worley (Funeral Directors) Ltd, telephone 01442 870326.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (weddings, funerals, forthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

Birthdays

Dr Jack Birks, former managing director of BP 77; Mr Alistair Campbell, rugby player, 37; Lord Colwyn, dental surgeon and jazz trumpeter, 55; Miss Valentina Corbett, actress, 73; Sir James Crane, former Chief Inspector of Constabulary, 76; Mrs Christine Crawley, MEP, 47; Mr Richard Gibson, actor, 42; Baroness Lloyd of Highbury, paediatrician, 69; Miss Zena Marshall, actress, 77; Dr James Merriman, former chairman, National Computing Centre, 82; Mr James Moorhouse, MEP, 73; Colonel Patrick Porteous VC, 79; Lord Kingsland (Sir Christopher Proust OC), former MEP, 55; Professor Ralph Raphael, organic chemist, 76; Mr Lawrence Rowe, West Indies cricketer, 48; Mr J.D. Sallinger, author, 78; Lord Swanes, marksman, 72.

Anniversaries

Births: Lorenzo de Medici, statesman, 1449; Paul Revere, silversmith and American hero, 1735; Maria

Edgeworth, novelist, 1767; Francis Egerton, Earl of Ellesmere, statesman and poet, 1806; Arthur Hugh Clough, poet, 1819; Ouida (Marie Louise de la Ramée), novelist, 1839; 1986; Lafayette Ronald Hubbard (L. Ron Hubbard), science-fiction writer and proponent of Scientology, 1986; Cesar Romero (Cesar Julius Romero), actor, 1994. On this day: the Portuguese captain Concelos entered the bay of Rio de Janeiro, 1502; the Gregorian calendar was introduced into Switzerland and German states, 1583; Charles II was crowned King of Scots at Stone, 1651; the first issue of the *Daily Universal Register* (later the *Times*) appeared, 1785; the Act of Union between Great Britain and Ireland came into being, 1801; Haiti declared her independence from France, 1804; the importation of slaves into the United States was forbidden, 1808; Britain proclaimed sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, 1833; the name of Van Diemen's Land was changed to Tasmania, 1856; London was divided into 10 postal districts, 1858;

Lutens, architect, 1944; Maurice Chevalier, entertainer and actor, 1972; Hephzibah Mehulian, pianist, 1981; Lord David Cecil, author, 1986; Lafayette Ronald Hubbard (L. Ron Hubbard), science-fiction writer and proponent of Scientology, 1986; Cesar Romero (Cesar Julius Romero), actor, 1994. On this day: the Portuguese captain Concelos entered the bay of Rio de Janeiro, 1502; the Gregorian calendar was introduced into Switzerland and German states, 1583; Charles II was crowned King of Scots at Stone, 1651; the first issue of the *Daily Universal Register* (later the *Times*) appeared, 1785; the Act of Union between Great Britain and Ireland came into being, 1801; Haiti declared her independence from France, 1804; the importation of slaves into the United States was forbidden, 1808; Britain proclaimed sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, 1833; the name of Van Diemen's Land was changed to Tasmania, 1856; London was divided into 10 postal districts, 1858;

Queen Victoria was proclaimed Empress of India, 1877; the first postal orders were issued in Great Britain, 1881; the electric chair was adopted in New York for capital punishment, 1890; the Manchester Ship Canal opened, 1894; the Commonwealth of Australia was set up, 1901; in Britain, people of 70 and over became eligible for old age pensions, 1909; Labour exchanges came into operation, 1910; the British telephone service passed into the control of the Post Office, 1912; the British Board of Film Censors was given powers to operate, 1913; a strike of London taxi drivers began, 1913; the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was established, 1922; the capital of Norway, known as Christiania, resumed the name of Oslo, 1925; coalmines in Britain were nationalised, 1947; British railways were nationalised, 1948; the European Economic Community came into being, 1958; the Cameroons became independent, 1960; Western Samoa became independent, 1962; the Foreign and

Commonwealth offices were amalgamated to form the Diplomatic Service, 1965; Great Britain, the Irish Republic and Denmark joined the EEC, 1973; UK fishing limits were extended to 200 miles around the British coast, 1977. Today is New Year's Day and the Feast Day of St Almachius or Telemachus, St Clarus, St Concordus of Spoleto, St Eudogius or Oyend, St Euphrosyne, St Felix of Bourges, St Fulgentius of Ruspe, St Mochua or Cuau, St Odilo, St Peter of Arre and St William of Saint Benignus.

Church appointments

The following appointments have been announced by the Church of England.

The Rev Linda Dunne, Assistant Curate (NSM), Pinner St Mary to be Assistant Curate (NSM), Portsmouth Rural Deanery (Portsmouth).

The Rev James Pirbright, Minister, Fleet and Bournemouth on the Hill St John's, to be Priest-in-charge, Lizard St Mary (Cornwall).

The Rev Roy Kingston, Priest-in-charge, Humberston St Peter and Paul (Parish) to retire 27 April 1997.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 1 Jan; and the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am.

صلى الله عليه وسلم

BTR revival continues as Footsie splutters to new high

Share spotlight

share price, pence

BTR BTR plc
www.btr.co.uk

Source: City Live

Has BTR's long slide from grace really ended—or are the shares merely experiencing a dead-cat bounce?

After a traumatic run, with the price crashing from 336.5p to 230.5p, the shares have enjoyed a spirited revival and yesterday rose another 3p to 234p.

BTR's comeback started on grey Friday; the bleak December day when Footsie was at one time down 168.5 points after US banking chief Alan Greenspan had warned about stock markets getting overheated.

It was, as blue chips slithered and slipped, the only Footsie consent to score a gain.

In its sudden return to favour followed a trading statement which, far from shovelling the expected doom and gloom in the direction of shareholders, carried a modestly upbeat message.

Chief executive Ian Strachan clearly has a tough job rein-

venting the sprawling conglomerate. His trading statement was expected to be a torrid examination of the problems he was encountering.


The market had become so resigned to BTR remaining in a state of deep depression that it was happy to embrace anything sounding remotely positive.

However, Mr Strachan still has much to do. A return to the high-rising days of two years ago when the shares topped 400p could still be a long way off.

Indeed Société Générale Stress Turnbull is one of the more optimistic followers of the shares yet has confined its aspirations to a 300p March target.

The main beneficiary of the BTR revival has been the group's 1997 warrants. Down to 14.5p last month they closed at 33.5p, up 1.75p.

Footsie did, after all, puff



M A
DE
stock m

and splutter its way to a New Year's Eve peak – but it was a close-run exercise. The index finished at 4,118.5p points, up 2.8. Trading was, as expected, thin during the half-day session and once again most of the action was generated by New Year tips and a few fund managers gently indulging in a little year-end window-dressing. The market ignored a little hesitancy in New York and the various more cautionary elements such as interest rates, sterling's rampant form and the political uncertainty.

It was as if it was insulated from the big wide world and was determined to do its own thing and end the year. If not

MARKET REPORT

REK PAIN

market reporter of the year

on a high note, on a reasonably positive one.

During the year Footsie has climbed 429.2 points and the supporting FTSE 250 index 469.1.

What was left of the old Unlisted Securities Market quietly disappeared with most of its remaining constituents finding homes elsewhere.

United Biscuits, where there has been signs of tentative nibbling over the festive season, added 2.5p to 210p. The shares have struggled from a 196p low last month.

Modest profit progress could be achieved this year but it is a return of takeover hopes which would offer the shares

inspiration. But UB has, in a takeover sense, suffered so many false dawns that the shares now have little speculative appeal.

Oil was supported with the current cold snap underpinning crude prices.

The sector, after two takeover bids last month, is also prone to speculative activity. Enterprise Oil was by far the best performing oil share, gaining 11p to 648.5p.

Enrolment was an electrical 1.5p to 79p after an electrical fast delayed a Paris-bound Eurostar train by 45 minutes, on reports that a holiday booking service climbed 4p to 812.5p.

The bio-babes were back in form. Biocompatibles International jumped a further 20p to 830p and Peptide Therapeutics added 17.5p to 230p.

Chiroscience rose 13.5p to 335p. The group has attracted favourable comment but according to Greig Middleton,

the stockbroker, is still a long way from enjoying the luxury of profits. It forecasts losses of £17.9m this year, rising to £19.8m next. The stockbroker's fair value assessment is 360p.

Pentland, the sports group, gained 2p to 100p on suggestions its greeting cards division would soon be the subject of a management buyout and Blacks Leisure reinforced its top-of-the-table position with a 21.5p gain to 386.5p.

EMI, the showbiz group which has been accused of the dubious distinction of being the market's hot takeover stock for 1997, edged forward 7.5p to 1.380p. The shares have climbed from a 1.193.5p low in November but are still below the 1.486p peak hit in the summer.

Chemical and timber group **Harrisons & Crossfield** which is also high in the market takeover stakes, rose 4.5p to 133.5p.

❑ **Calluna**, a maker and distributor of miniature disk drive products, should swing into profits next year, believe stockbroker **Albert E Sharp**. Analyst **Richard Lucas** is looking for a \$4.5m loss this year and then profits of \$2.3m followed by \$13.8m. The company has funded expected volume production of its new disk drive through a £17.7m rights issue. The shares rose 55.5p, down from a 124.5p spring-time high.

❑ **Management consultant Proofroot** ended the year down 1p at a new 14p low. The shares were 400p in 1991. There are hopes a \$4m profit will be achieved this year against a £1.9m loss.

❑ **Hambro Countrywide**, the estate agent, climbed 1.5p to 94p on optimistic forecasts for the housing market. The shares were 36p in January.

ack

[illegible]

winbur
ack in

SOUTH

RECEIVED
LAC
MAY 1964

10

1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

1.35

100-443887-100

RACING: A jockey who was close to death a year ago is striding off on the road of reparation. Richard Edmondson reports

Swinburn steps back in thanks

Jarrow has done it, so have Forest Gump, Fiona Campbell and Hannibal. Now it's Walter Swinburn who is setting out on a great yomp on Monday.

The jockey taken close to death by a catastrophic race-course accident in Hong Kong in February embarks on a charity walk across Ireland next week to raise funds for causes close to his heart. The St Vincent's Hospital in Dublin, the Cambridge Children's Hospice and a fund set up to help youngsters who were being treated for deep burns in the Prince of Wales Hospital in the colony while Swinburn himself recovered there from his head and chest injuries, will all benefit from the Cork to Dublin trek.

There are plenty to attest that there has been a metamorphosis in Swinburn since Liffey River sent him crashing through the running rails at Sha Tin at the beginning of last year. Before then the conventional image of Swinburn had been of a man who indulged his station as one of the nation's most successful riders. Ever since he won the Derby on Shergar in 1981 as a 19-year-old the gossip has

been of a figure who fitted most snugly into the role of a turf playboy.

Hong Kong, though, has further brought out the emotions of a person who exhibited his vulnerability after winning the 1995 Derby on Lammtarra. As he recuperated on his sick bed last February the idea came easily that repayment was not a choice but a prerogative.

'I received a lot of support on my way back and it's important for me to give something back'

"I thought about all this while I was still in Hong Kong," he said yesterday. "I had to get back riding first but there was always something going to be done for those children in Hong Kong. I received a lot of support from people on my way back and it's

important for me to give something back to everyone else."

The Ireland should be the venue for his recuperation is no surprise. The 35-year-old's birth certificate may state that he was born in Oxford, England, but he regards that as a statistical aberration and himself as an Irishman. His father, Wally, is a former champion jockey of Ireland and his mother, Doreen, was born and bred over the water.

The Emerald Isle was where the elfin Swinburn first learned to ride and also where he was educated, at Rockwell College at Cashel in Tipperary, which will be a stopping off point on his journey next Wednesday.

St Vincent's Hospital, where the finishing tape will be strung out, is also a landmark of personal significance as it was there that Swinburn's friend John Durkan has recently received treatment for leukaemia. It appears that like Swinburn before him, Durkan, who was struck down by the disease just as he was embarking on a career as a trainer, is not about to trot forward when the final forefinger beckons.

I spoke to John last week and he sounded as if he's doing really well," Swinburn said. "If he keeps going the way he is he'll be back training before you know it."

As Ireland's southern counties are woken by the noise of jangling buckets next week, it will be doubly hard to miss Swinburn, as he is followed by a two-back-upping passenger and an entourage of some substance. "I don't think I'll be lonely," he said. "They don't do things that way in Ireland."

In the time he gets to ponder, the "Choirboy" will be able to go through the range, from the bone-grinding nightmare of Sha Tin to the glory of the Breed-



Walking up to a new image: Walter Swinburn puts in some training near Newmarket yesterday for his Irish trek

Photograph: Peter Jay



Swinburn and Liffey River crash at Sha Tin in February

Hever Golf Lover on the way to 1,000

Hever Golf Lover, winner of the Light Brigade Maiden Stakes at Lingfield yesterday, could be a runner in this year's 1,000 Guineas, the Swedish one at Taty, that is.

The filly, ridden by Darryll Holland and sent off the 5-2 favourite, led on the home turn to score by four lengths from Countess Times.

Her trainer, the Epsom-based Joe Naughton, said: "We entered her in December last year as you have to do it early. The race is worth about 40 grand."

"There are two races here on 11 January over five furlongs and seven. She could go for one of them and will stay more than the minimum trip."

Alan Daly notched the 40th winner of his career and his 23rd of the year when the Eric Wheeler-trained Mister Raider took the Inkerman Handicap. "Alan rides him exceptionally well," Wheeler said. "The horse breaks well and is useful in his own class."

RESULTS

LINGFIELD
12.55: 1. RASHEL (victory bonus 4-1; 2. Broughton's Female 3-1; 3. Eve; 4. Mary You Know 12-1; 5. Ram; 6-1; 7. P D Banns; 8. Wetherspoon; 9-1; 10-1; 11-1; 12-1; 13-1; 14-1; 15-1; 16-1; 17-1; 18-1; 19-1; 20-1; 21-1; 22-1; 23-1; 24-1; 25-1; 26-1; 27-1; 28-1; 29-1; 30-1; 31-1; 32-1; 33-1; 34-1; 35-1; 36-1; 37-1; 38-1; 39-1; 40-1; 41-1; 42-1; 43-1; 44-1; 45-1; 46-1; 47-1; 48-1; 49-1; 50-1; 51-1; 52-1; 53-1; 54-1; 55-1; 56-1; 57-1; 58-1; 59-1; 60-1; 61-1; 62-1; 63-1; 64-1; 65-1; 66-1; 67-1; 68-1; 69-1; 70-1; 71-1; 72-1; 73-1; 74-1; 75-1; 76-1; 77-1; 78-1; 79-1; 80-1; 81-1; 82-1; 83-1; 84-1; 85-1; 86-1; 87-1; 88-1; 89-1; 90-1; 91-1; 92-1; 93-1; 94-1; 95-1; 96-1; 97-1; 98-1; 99-1; 100-1; 101-1; 102-1; 103-1; 104-1; 105-1; 106-1; 107-1; 108-1; 109-1; 110-1; 111-1; 112-1; 113-1; 114-1; 115-1; 116-1; 117-1; 118-1; 119-1; 120-1; 121-1; 122-1; 123-1; 124-1; 125-1; 126-1; 127-1; 128-1; 129-1; 130-1; 131-1; 132-1; 133-1; 134-1; 135-1; 136-1; 137-1; 138-1; 139-1; 140-1; 141-1; 142-1; 143-1; 144-1; 145-1; 146-1; 147-1; 148-1; 149-1; 150-1; 151-1; 152-1; 153-1; 154-1; 155-1; 156-1; 157-1; 158-1; 159-1; 160-1; 161-1; 162-1; 163-1; 164-1; 165-1; 166-1; 167-1; 168-1; 169-1; 170-1; 171-1; 172-1; 173-1; 174-1; 175-1; 176-1; 177-1; 178-1; 179-1; 180-1; 181-1; 182-1; 183-1; 184-1; 185-1; 186-1; 187-1; 188-1; 189-1; 190-1; 191-1; 192-1; 193-1; 194-1; 195-1; 196-1; 197-1; 198-1; 199-1; 200-1; 201-1; 202-1; 203-1; 204-1; 205-1; 206-1; 207-1; 208-1; 209-1; 210-1; 211-1; 212-1; 213-1; 214-1; 215-1; 216-1; 217-1; 218-1; 219-1; 220-1; 221-1; 222-1; 223-1; 224-1; 225-1; 226-1; 227-1; 228-1; 229-1; 230-1; 231-1; 232-1; 233-1; 234-1; 235-1; 236-1; 237-1; 238-1; 239-1; 240-1; 241-1; 242-1; 243-1; 244-1; 245-1; 246-1; 247-1; 248-1; 249-1; 250-1; 251-1; 252-1; 253-1; 254-1; 255-1; 256-1; 257-1; 258-1; 259-1; 260-1; 261-1; 262-1; 263-1; 264-1; 265-1; 266-1; 267-1; 268-1; 269-1; 270-1; 271-1; 272-1; 273-1; 274-1; 275-1; 276-1; 277-1; 278-1; 279-1; 280-1; 281-1; 282-1; 283-1; 284-1; 285-1; 286-1; 287-1; 288-1; 289-1; 290-1; 291-1; 292-1; 293-1; 294-1; 295-1; 296-1; 297-1; 298-1; 299-1; 300-1; 301-1; 302-1; 303-1; 304-1; 305-1; 306-1; 307-1; 308-1; 309-1; 310-1; 311-1; 312-1; 313-1; 314-1; 315-1; 316-1; 317-1; 318-1; 319-1; 320-1; 321-1; 322-1; 323-1; 324-1; 325-1; 326-1; 327-1; 328-1; 329-1; 330-1; 331-1; 332-1; 333-1; 334-1; 335-1; 336-1; 337-1; 338-1; 339-1; 340-1; 341-1; 342-1; 343-1; 344-1; 345-1; 346-1; 347-1; 348-1; 349-1; 350-1; 351-1; 352-1; 353-1; 354-1; 355-1; 356-1; 357-1; 358-1; 359-1; 360-1; 361-1; 362-1; 363-1; 364-1; 365-1; 366-1; 367-1; 368-1; 369-1; 370-1; 371-1; 372-1; 373-1; 374-1; 375-1; 376-1; 377-1; 378-1; 379-1; 380-1; 381-1; 382-1; 383-1; 384-1; 385-1; 386-1; 387-1; 388-1; 389-1; 390-1; 391-1; 392-1; 393-1; 394-1; 395-1; 396-1; 397-1; 398-1; 399-1; 400-1; 401-1; 402-1; 403-1; 404-1; 405-1; 406-1; 407-1; 408-1; 409-1; 410-1; 411-1; 412-1; 413-1; 414-1; 415-1; 416-1; 417-1; 418-1; 419-1; 420-1; 421-1; 422-1; 423-1; 424-1; 425-1; 426-1; 427-1; 428-1; 429-1; 430-1; 431-1; 432-1; 433-1; 434-1; 435-1; 436-1; 437-1; 438-1; 439-1; 440-1; 441-1; 442-1; 443-1; 444-1; 445-1; 446-1; 447-1; 448-1; 449-1; 450-1; 451-1; 452-1; 453-1; 454-1; 455-1; 456-1; 457-1; 458-1; 459-1; 460-1; 461-1; 462-1; 463-1; 464-1; 465-1; 466-1; 467-1; 468-1; 469-1; 470-1; 471-1; 472-1; 473-1; 474-1; 475-1; 476-1; 477-1; 478-1; 479-1; 480-1; 481-1; 482-1; 483-1; 484-1; 485-1; 486-1; 487-1; 488-1; 489-1; 490-1; 491-1; 492-1; 493-1; 494-1; 495-1; 496-1; 497-1; 498-1; 499-1; 500-1; 501-1; 502-1; 503-1; 504-1; 505-1; 506-1; 507-1; 508-1; 509-1; 510-1; 511-1; 512-1; 513-1; 514-1; 515-1; 516-1; 517-1; 518-1; 519-1; 520-1; 521-1; 522-1; 523-1; 524-1; 525-1; 526-1; 527-1; 528-1; 529-1; 530-1; 531-1; 532-1; 533-1; 534-1; 535-1; 536-1; 537-1; 538-1; 539-1; 540-1; 541-1; 542-1; 543-1; 544-1; 545-1; 546-1; 547-1; 548-1; 549-1; 550-1; 551-1; 552-1; 553-1; 554-1; 555-1; 556-1; 557-1; 558-1; 559-1; 560-1; 561-1; 562-1; 563-1; 564-1; 565-1; 566-1; 567-1; 568-1; 569-1; 570-1; 571-1; 572-1; 573-1; 574-1; 575-1; 576-1; 577-1; 578-1; 579-1; 580-1; 581-1; 582-1; 583-1; 584-1; 585-1; 586-1; 587-1; 588-1; 589-1; 590-1; 591-1; 592-1; 593-1; 594-1; 595-1; 596-1; 597-1; 598-1; 599-1; 600-1; 601-1; 602-1; 603-1; 604-1; 605-1; 606-1; 607-1; 608-1; 609-1; 610-1; 611-1; 612-1; 613-1; 614-1; 615-1; 616-1; 617-1; 618-1; 619-1; 620-1; 621-1; 622-1; 623-1; 624-1; 625-1; 626-1; 627-1; 628-1; 629-1; 630-1; 631-1; 632-1; 633-1; 634-1; 635-1; 636-1; 637-1; 638-1; 639-1; 640-1; 641-1; 642-1; 643-1; 644-1; 645-1; 646-1; 647-1; 648-1; 649-1; 650-1; 651-1; 652-1; 653-1; 654-1; 655-1; 656-1; 657-1; 658-1; 659-1; 660-1; 661-1; 662-1; 663-1; 664-1; 665-1; 666-1; 667-1; 668-1; 669-1; 670-1; 671-1; 672-1; 673-1; 674-1; 675-1; 676-1; 677-1; 678-1; 679-1; 680-1; 681-1; 682-1; 683-1; 684-1; 685-1; 686-1; 687-1; 688-1; 689-1; 690-1; 691-1; 692-1; 693-1; 694-1; 695-1; 696-1; 697-1; 698-1; 699-1; 700-1; 701-1; 702-1; 703-1; 704-1; 705-1; 706-1; 707-1; 708-1; 709-1; 710-1; 711-1; 712-1; 713-1; 714-1; 715-1; 716-1; 717-1; 718-1; 719-1; 720-1; 721-1; 722-1; 723-1; 724-1; 725-1; 726-1; 727-1; 728-1; 729-1; 730-1; 731-1; 732-1; 733-1; 734-1; 735-1; 736-1; 737-1; 738-1; 739-1; 740-1; 741-1; 742-1; 743-1; 744-1; 745-1; 746-1; 747-1; 748-1; 749-1; 750-1; 751-1; 752-1; 753-1; 754-1; 755-1; 756-1; 757-1; 758-1; 759-1; 760-1; 761-1; 762-1; 763-1; 764-1; 765-1; 766-1; 767-1; 768-1; 769-1; 770-1; 771-1; 772-1; 773-1; 774-1; 775-1; 776-1; 777-1; 778-1; 779-1; 780-1; 781-1; 782-1; 783-1; 784-1; 785-1; 786-1; 787-1; 788-1; 789-1; 790-1; 791-1; 792-1; 793-1; 794-1; 795-1; 796-1; 797-1; 798-1; 799-1; 800-1; 801-1; 802-1; 803-1; 804-1; 805-1; 806-1; 807-1; 808-1; 809-1; 810-1; 811-1; 812-1; 813-1; 814-1; 815-1; 816-1; 817-1; 818-1; 819-1; 820-1; 821-1; 822-1; 823-1; 824-1; 825-1; 826-1; 827-1; 828-1; 829-1; 830-1; 831-1; 832-1; 833-1; 834-1; 835-1; 836-1; 837-1; 838-1; 839-1; 840-1; 841-1; 842-1; 843-1; 844-1; 845-1; 846-1; 847-1; 848-1; 849-1; 850-1; 851-1; 852-1; 853-1; 854-1; 855-1; 856-1; 857-1; 858-1; 859-1; 860-1; 861-1; 862-1; 863-1; 864-1; 865-1; 866-1; 867-1; 868-1; 869-1; 870-1; 871-1; 872-1; 873-1; 874-1; 875-1; 876-1; 877-1; 878-1; 879-1; 880-1; 881-1; 882-1; 883-1; 884-1; 885-1; 886-1; 887-1; 888-1; 889-1; 890-1; 891-1; 892-1; 893-1; 894-1; 895-1; 896-1; 897-1; 898-1; 899-1; 900-1; 901-1; 902-1; 903-1; 904-1; 905-1; 906-1; 907-1; 908-1; 909-1; 910-1; 911-1; 912-1; 913-1; 914-1; 915-1; 916-1; 917-1; 918-1; 919-1; 920-1; 921-1; 922-1; 923-1; 924-1; 925-1; 926-1; 927-1; 928-1; 929-1; 930-1; 931-1; 932-1; 933-1; 934-1; 935-1; 936-1; 937-1; 938-1; 939-1; 940-1; 941-1; 942-1; 943-1; 944-1; 945-1; 946-1; 947-1; 948-1; 949-1; 950-1; 951-1; 952-1; 953-1; 954-1; 955-1; 956-1; 957-1; 958-1; 959-1; 960-1; 961-1; 962-1; 963-1; 964-1; 965-1; 966-1; 967-1; 968-1; 969-1; 970-1; 971-1; 972-1; 973-1; 974-1; 975-1; 976-1; 977-1; 978-1; 979-1; 980-1; 981-1; 982-1; 983-1; 984-1; 985-1; 986-1; 987-1; 988-1; 989-1; 990-1; 991-1; 992-1; 993-1; 994-1; 995-1; 996-1; 997-1; 998-1; 999-1; 1000-1; 1001-1; 1002-1; 1003-1; 1004-1; 1005-1; 1006-1; 1007-1; 1008-1; 1009-1; 1010-1; 1011-1; 1012-1; 1013-1; 1014-1; 1015-1; 1016-1; 1017-1; 1018-1; 1019-1; 1020-1; 1021-1; 1022-1; 1023-1; 1024-1; 1025-1; 1026-1; 1027-1; 1028-1; 1029-1; 1030-1; 1031-1; 1032-1; 1033-1; 1034-1; 1035-1; 1036-1; 1037-1; 1038-1; 1039-1; 1040-1; 1041-1; 1042-1; 1043-1; 1044-1; 1045-1; 1046-1; 1047-1; 1048-1; 1049-1; 1050-1; 1051-1; 1052-1; 1053-1; 1054-1; 1055-1; 1056-1; 1057-1; 1058-1; 1059-1; 1060-1; 1061-1; 1062-1; 1063-1; 1064-1; 1065-1; 1066-1; 1067-1; 1068-1; 1069-1; 1070-1; 1071-1; 1072-1; 1073-1; 1074-1; 1075-1; 1076-1; 1077-1; 1078-1; 1079-1; 1080-1; 1081-1; 1082-1; 1083-1; 1084-1; 1085-1; 1086-1; 1087-1; 1088-1; 1089-1; 1090-1; 1091-1; 1092-1; 1093-1; 1094-1; 1095-1; 1096-1; 1097-1; 1098-1; 1099-1; 1100-1; 1101-1; 1102-1; 1103-1; 1104-1; 1105-1; 1106-1; 1107-1; 1108-1; 1109-1; 1110-1; 1111-1; 1112-1; 1113-1; 1114-1; 1115-1; 1116-1; 1117-1; 1118-1; 1119-1; 1120-1; 1121-1; 1122-1; 1123-1; 1124-1; 1125-1; 1126-1; 1127-1; 1128-1; 1129-1; 1130-1; 1131-1; 1132-1; 1133-1; 1134-1; 1135-1; 1136-1; 1137-1; 1138-1; 1139-1; 1140-1; 1141-1; 1142-1; 1143-1; 1144-1; 1145-1; 1146-1; 1147-1; 1148-1; 1149-1; 1150-1; 1151-1; 1152-1; 1153-1; 1154-1; 1155-1; 1156-1; 1157-1; 1158-1; 1159-1; 1160-1; 1161-1; 1162-1; 1163-1; 1164-1; 1165-1; 1166-1; 1167-1; 1168-1; 1169-1; 1170-1; 1171-1; 1172-1; 1173-1; 1174-1; 1175-1; 1176-1; 1177-1; 1178-1; 1179-1; 1180-1; 1181-1; 1182-1; 1183-1; 1184-1; 1185-1; 1186-1; 1187-1; 1188-1; 1189-1; 1190-1; 1191-1; 1192-1; 1193-1; 1194-1; 1195-1; 1196-1; 1197-1; 1198-1; 1199-1; 1200-1; 1201-1; 1202-1; 1203-1; 1204-1; 1205-1; 1206-1; 1207-1; 1208-1; 1209-1; 1210-1; 1211-1; 1212-1; 1213-1; 1214-1; 1215-1; 1216-1; 1217-1; 1218-1; 1219-1; 1220-1; 1221-1; 1222-1; 1223-1; 1224-1; 1225-1; 1226-1; 1227-1; 1228-1; 1229-1; 1230-1; 1231-1; 1232-1; 1233-1; 1234-1; 1235-1; 1236-1; 1237-1; 1238-1; 1239-1; 1240-1; 1241-1; 1242-1; 1243-1; 1244-1; 1245-1; 1246-1; 1247-1; 1248-1; 1249-1; 1250-1; 1251-1; 1252-1; 1253-1; 1254-1; 1255-1; 1256-1; 1257-1; 1258-1; 1259-1; 1260-1; 1261-1; 1262-1; 1263-1; 1264-1; 1265-1; 1266-1; 1267-1; 1268-1; 1269-1; 1270-1; 1271-1; 1272-1; 1273-1; 1274-1; 1275-1; 1276-1; 1277-1; 1278-1; 1279-1; 1280-1; 1281-1; 1282-1; 1283-1; 1284-1; 1285-1; 1286-1; 1287-1; 1288-1; 1289-1; 1290-1; 1291-1; 1292-1; 1293-1; 1294-1; 1295-1; 1296-1; 1297-1; 1298-1; 1299-1; 1300-1; 1301-1; 1302-1; 1303-1; 1304-1; 1305-1; 1306-1; 1307-1; 1308-1; 1309-1; 1310-1; 1311-1; 1312-1; 1313-1; 1314-1; 1315-1; 1316-1; 1317-1; 1318-1; 1319-1; 1320-1; 1321-1; 1322-1; 1323-1; 1324-1; 1325-1; 1326-1; 1327-1; 1328-1; 1329-1; 1330-1; 1331-1; 1332-1; 1333-1; 1334-1; 1335-1; 1336-1; 1337-1; 1338-1; 1339-1; 1340-1; 1341-1; 1342-1; 1343-1; 1344-1; 1345-1; 1346-1; 1347-1; 1348-1; 1349-1; 1350-1; 1351-1; 1352-1; 1353-1; 1354-1; 1355-1; 1356-1; 1357-1; 1358-1; 1359-1; 1360-1; 1361-1; 1362-1; 1363-1; 1364-1; 1365-1; 1366-1; 1367-1; 1368-1; 1369-1; 1370-1; 1371-1; 1372-1; 1373-1; 1374-1; 1375-1; 1376-1; 1377-1; 1378-1; 1379-1; 1380-1; 1381-1; 1382-1; 1383-1; 1384-1; 1385-1; 1386-1; 1387-1; 1388-1; 1389-1; 1390-1; 1391-1; 1392-1; 1393-1; 1394-1; 1395-1; 1396-1; 1397-1; 1398-1; 1399-1; 1400-1; 1401-1; 1402-1; 1403-

sport

Manchester United to win the title, Australia to blaze through the Ashes series, no Grand Slam title for Henman, but golf could have a young champion. *Independent* writers look at the year ahead

1997: The shape of things to come

FOOTBALL

Glenn Moore

Time to bring on the Italians

Another 20 Italians will be heading for these shores in 1997, but most will be seeking points not pounds. After a year dominated by a summer tournament, English football returns to its winter roots, with the two most significant dates in February and October. That is when England meet Italy, home and away, in the quest for a place in the 1998 World Cup.

The February tie, at Wembley, will be Italy's first under new management. Cesare Maldini will need all of his son Paolo's defensive virtues if Italy are to end Glenn Hoddle's impressive start. He will also need good minders off the pitch as the hotel could be overrun by English agents and managers.

An English victory then, and a point or more in Poland in May, will virtually ensure England finish in the top two. A further point in Italy on 11 October would clinch first place and avoid the trauma of a play-off.

Bizarrely, there will be one other Anglo-Italian meeting, in France in the summer. Brazil will also feature in a pre-World Cup tournament which will be as much a test of security as football.

Scotland's key matches are in April, when they host Austria and visit Sweden. The Irish Republic's fate is likely to be decided in October, when Romania visit Dublin. The North wind up their campaign in Portugal the same night but, by then, the result may be academic. As for Wales, the big question is whether Bobby Gould will still be in a job by then.

The internationals are important, but they will be relegated to the back burner while the Premiership builds up to what could be a third successive last-day finish. Manchester United are looking ominously good and



Paolo Maldini: Aiming to come to his father's defence

supporters of their rivals may, for once, want them to defeat Porto in March in the hope that the European Cup will distract them.

Two important posts have to be filled. With the refusals piling up, it seems the Football Association may have favourably reconsidered Howard Wilkinson's credentials to be technical director. He may be associated with unimaginative football but, after two years of futile searching, a compromise is required.

It will be equally difficult to find a replacement for Rick Parry as chief executive of the Premier League. With pay-per-view approaching, Parry's calm and even-handed negotiating will be missed.

So, too, will his concept of a game beyond the Premier League. While the big clubs look to more television loot, the likes of Brighton and Darlington are merely seeking to survive. Not for them the share issues of the fat cats. Nor will they be on Roberto Baggio's viewing list as he ponders a move from Serie A.

The year will end with the World Cup draw - what price England to be paired with Terry Venables' Australia?

Predictions (in descending order of probability): Champions: Manchester United. England and Scotland to qualify for the World Cup. Liverpool to win European Cup-Winners' Cup. Kidderminster to replace Darlington. Ravennell to join Manchester United. Kinnear to be offered Tottenham job. Chelsea to win FA Cup. Baggio to join Newcastle while Ferdinand goes to Aston Villa.

been happier slithering around in a mud wrestling pit than sitting at a table, but they are going to have to learn to love each other. Go on, Sir John, give Cliff a kiss.

Perhaps the most intriguing issue surrounds the long-term successor to Jack Rowell as England coach. Not that Jack is likely to jump ship in the foreseeable future, but one of the disturbing aspects of the national set-up is that there is a complete lack of any realistic pretender to his throne. Ian McGeechan, a Scot from tip to toe, may emerge as a rival if the Lions make a decent fist of it. We shall see.

Predictions: The Lions to lose by the odd Test in South Africa; England to pinch the Five Nations; and Leicester to win any two of the three major club trophies.

Domestically, the club game in England will inherit a new controlling body made up of representatives from the Rugby Football Union and the leading professional teams. Up until now the two sides would have

been happier slithering around in a mud wrestling pit than sitting at a table, but they are going to have to learn to love each other. Go on, Sir John, give Cliff a kiss.

Perhaps the most intriguing issue surrounds the long-term successor to Jack Rowell as England coach. Not that Jack is likely to jump ship in the foreseeable future, but one of the disturbing aspects of the national set-up is that there is a complete lack of any realistic pretender to his throne. Ian McGeechan, a Scot from tip to toe, may emerge as a rival if the Lions make a decent fist of it. We shall see.

Predictions: The Lions to lose by the odd Test in South Africa; England to pinch the Five Nations; and Leicester to win any two of the three major club trophies.

Domestically, the club game in England will inherit a new controlling body made up of representatives from the Rugby Football Union and the leading professional teams. Up until now the two sides would have

been happier slithering around in a mud wrestling pit than sitting at a table, but they are going to have to learn to love each other. Go on, Sir John, give Cliff a kiss.

Perhaps the most intriguing issue surrounds the long-term successor to Jack Rowell as England coach. Not that Jack is likely to jump ship in the foreseeable future, but one of the disturbing aspects of the national set-up is that there is a complete lack of any realistic pretender to his throne. Ian McGeechan, a Scot from tip to toe, may emerge as a rival if the Lions make a decent fist of it. We shall see.

Predictions: The Lions to lose by the odd Test in South Africa; England to pinch the Five Nations; and Leicester to win any two of the three major club trophies.

CRICKET

Derek Pringle

McGrath can upstage Warne

With just a single Test win in 1996, it has been a less than exhilarating year for England's Test cricketers, whose latest 0-0 draw against Zimbabwe has merely served to confirm a deep-rooted stagnation, which has been ignored as long as it has been suspected.

There is no doubt then that English cricket is in flux, both on and off the field, the latter due mainly to the formation of the new England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) under the chairmanship of Lord MacLaurin. He is charged with the task of rationalising an ailing and doddering domestic system to the betterment of the national side. After their forthcoming tour of New Zealand, England meet Australia, their oldest of foes, for an Ashes summer.

Australia should win the Ashes, though England can be expected to take one of the Tests after the series has been settled. Michael Atherton is likely to be appointed for the first two Tests of the summer following what I predict will be an unconvincing 1-0 series win in New Zealand. If his side lose both those matches, he will surely not see the summer out as England's leader.

Over the six summer Tests, Glenn McGrath, Australia's opening bowler, can be expected to take more Ashes wickets than Shane Warne, who



Shane Warne: Hoping to spin Australia to Ashes victory

just might be partly tamed by John Crawley and Nasser Hussain. Expect the latter to be Atherton's successor should England capitulate early on.

In county cricket, Warwickshire, with Allan Donald returned, should contest the head of the County Championship with Surrey and Leicestershire. I expect Durham will win a first-class game, while two from Owais Shah (Middlesex), Ashley Cowan (Essex) and James Kirtley (Sussex) will play for England in the final Test at The Oval.

If that sounds improbable, on the same day as David Gower celebrates his 40th birthday, a branch of Tesco's will open in Calcutta, as Lord MacLaurin strikes up an unlikely alliance with Jagmohan Dalmiya, India's cricketing power broker and self-styled saviour of world cricket.

Yet as other temples fall and MCC at last becomes bisexual, I expect one institution to remain intact, at least for another year, with Graham Gooch spurning the job as chairman of selectors - which I predict will fall to Mike Gatting instead - and playing out his valedictory season with Essex. Expect him to finish again as the country's leading run-scorer.

Predictions: Australia to win Test series 4-1. Chris Lewis to model for Jean-Paul Gaultier in Milan.

ATHLETICS

Mike Rowbottom

Athens the target

The season's main event, the World Championships in Athens (1-10 August), is likely to attract a greater proportion of leading athletes than did the 1995 version.

For the first time, the International Amateur Athletic Federation is making prize-money available in the competition, which will take a share of the \$20m (£12.2m) available for the 1997 IAAF programme.

The first IAAF championship to pay prize-money will be the world indoor event at Paris from 7-9 March.

Britain has no defending champions in that competition, but Jonathan Edwards is one outdoor title-holder who will be seeking to hang on to that distinction in Athens, where he would no doubt relish a re-match with the American who beat him to the Olympic triple-jump gold, Kenny Harrison.

Greece could also be where Kelly Holmes earns some of the greater success at 800 metres and 1500m which injury denied her at the Olympics. Britain's other Atlanta medalists apart from Edwards - Roger Black and the 400m relay team, Steve Backley, Denise Lewis and Steve Smith - all look capable of earning further success.

The efficacy of Britain's newly established forum for its athletes, the British Athletics Association, will be put to an early test when selections are announced for the 1997 European Cup competition, which will be in Turin from 21-22 June.

The same city will host the world cross-country championships on 23 March, where Britain's Jon Brown, who took the European cross-country title in December, will seek a place in the top six against strong African opposition.

A challenge of a different kind looms in Liévin, France, on 16 February, when Lintford Christie, supposedly retired, is considering a run-out on the indoor track where he broke the 200m record in 1995.

Another less orthodox challenge is planned for the Toronto Skydome, where Donovan Bailey, the Olympic 100m champion, and Michael Johnson, Olympic 200m and 400m champion, will race head-to-head over 300 metres.

Predictions: The rise and rise of Kenya's young middle-distance marvel Daniel Komen; gold for Kelly Holmes; Lintford Christie to run a 100m in under 10sec.



Kelly Holmes: Golden prospects

RUGBY UNION

Chris Hewett

Lions offer optimism

Champagne cocktails all round or another depressing pile of sackcloth and ashes? British rugby will happily forget all about the committee room traumas of 1996 if the Lions, managed by Fran Cotton and coached by Ian McGeechan, turn over the Springboks in South Africa this summer. But even if they succeed, in a country where they have triumphed only once in 11 visits since 1891, the jubilation is likely to be little more than a momentary phenomenon.

When the Lions disband and the individual nations resume their masochistic battles with the superpowers from south of the equator, this year's story will be much the same as last year's. England play all three world leaders in the space of a month during the winter - indeed, they face New Zealand twice in three weeks - and at

this stage it is hard to see them winning a single Test. And if they are doomed to failure, where does that leave Scotland and Wales?

At least the Lions tour will put rugby on a pedestal during the summer months - a nice Jack Rowell: No natural heir made up of representatives from the Rugby Football Union and the leading professional teams. Up until now the two sides would have

been happier slithering around in a mud wrestling pit than sitting at a table, but they are going to have to learn to love each other. Go on, Sir John, give Cliff a kiss.

Perhaps the most intriguing issue surrounds the long-term successor to Jack Rowell as England coach. Not that Jack is likely to jump ship in the foreseeable future, but one of the disturbing aspects of the national set-up is that there is a complete lack of any realistic pretender to his throne. Ian McGeechan, a Scot from tip to toe, may emerge as a rival if the Lions make a decent fist of it. We shall see.

Predictions: The Lions to lose by the odd Test in South Africa; England to pinch the Five Nations; and Leicester to win any two of the three major club trophies.

Domestically, the club game in England will inherit a new controlling body made up of representatives from the Rugby Football Union and the leading professional teams. Up until now the two sides would have

been happier slithering around in a mud wrestling pit than sitting at a table, but they are going to have to learn to love each other. Go on, Sir John, give Cliff a kiss.

Perhaps the most intriguing issue surrounds the long-term successor to Jack Rowell as England coach. Not that Jack is likely to jump ship in the foreseeable future, but one of the disturbing aspects of the national set-up is that there is a complete lack of any realistic pretender to his throne. Ian McGeechan, a Scot from tip to toe, may emerge as a rival if the Lions make a decent fist of it. We shall see.

Predictions: The Lions to lose by the odd Test in South Africa; England to pinch the Five Nations; and Leicester to win any two of the three major club trophies.

Domestically, the club game in England will inherit a new controlling body made up of representatives from the Rugby Football Union and the leading professional teams. Up until now the two sides would have

been happier slithering around in a mud wrestling pit than sitting at a table, but they are going to have to learn to love each other. Go on, Sir John, give Cliff a kiss.

RACING

Greg Wood

Imperial reign at Cheltenham

You did not need to be Irish to appreciate either the victory of Imperial Call in the Gold Cup at Cheltenham last March, or the jubilation which ensued in the winners' enclosure afterwards. More exciting still, though, was the possibility that Imperial Call, eight years old today, still has his best seasons ahead of him. After no end of false dawns, the country where jump racing is a national obsession may have found an heir to Arkle.

A prospect which will warm hearts on both sides of the sea on the run-in to the Festival. When the Flat season kicks in shortly afterwards, the Godolphin stable which claimed its first trainers' title in 1996 will set out for the first time with a healthy contingent of juveniles.

That Godolphin no longer relies simply on Sheikh Mohammed's cheque-book to build up its strength indicates that its growth curve has yet to peak, and once again their next campaign should be the best so far.

Which will be good news for Lanfranco Dettori, as he sets out

to recapture from Pat Eddery the jockeys' championship which everyone but turf aficionados seems to assume is still his. Dettori's impact on the national consciousness was a major boost in a difficult year for racing, and will no doubt be consolidated.

So, too, though, will the influence of the National Lottery on the betting public, with the launch of a midweek draw next month. Britain's bookmakers are mounting a spirited rearguard action against the forces of Camelot, with the recent launch of their own numbers bet just the latest skirmish, but it offers no direct benefit to racing and Levy yield seems sure to decline once again this year. It is just another difficult problem for Lord Wakeham, British Horseracing Board chairman and former arch Tory chief whip, in a year which may well bring his political enemies to power.

Predictions: Imperial Call to win the Cheltenham Gold Cup. Space Truckee to win Champion Hurdle.

Domestically, the club game in England will inherit a new controlling body made up of representatives from the Rugby Football Union and the leading professional teams. Up until now the two sides would have

been happier slithering around in a mud wrestling pit than sitting at a table, but they are going to have to learn to love each other. Go on, Sir John, give Cliff a kiss.

Perhaps the most intriguing issue surrounds the long-term successor to Jack Rowell as England coach. Not that Jack is likely to jump ship in the foreseeable future, but one of the disturbing aspects of the national set-up is that there is a complete lack of any realistic pretender to his throne. Ian McGeechan, a Scot from tip to toe, may emerge as a rival if the Lions make a decent fist of it. We shall see.

Predictions: The Lions to lose by the odd Test in South Africa; England to pinch the Five Nations; and Leicester to win any two of the three major club trophies.

Domestically, the club game in England will inherit a new controlling body made up of representatives from the Rugby Football Union and the leading professional teams. Up until now the two sides would have

been happier slithering around in a mud wrestling pit than sitting at a table, but they are going to have to learn to love each other. Go on, Sir John, give Cliff a kiss.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Dave Hadfield

Make or break for new order

This is the year in which rugby league must sort itself out, both at home and abroad, if it is to have a future worth the name.

Domestically, this year the excuses run out. If we are still debating next winter whether Super League and summer rugby are a success then the answer will be that they are not and never will be. It is, therefore, a season that demands positive thinking, a healing of fault lines between traditionalists and innovators, amateurs and professionals, idealists and pragmatists in the cause of mutual survival.

It will be, by design, an even longer season than the old winter one, which was generally agreed to be too long. And much of its success hinges on whether the World Club Challenge captures the imagination. Unwieldy and almost certainly temporary as it is, the cross-crossing of the globe by club sides is capable of doing so. The same goes for next autumn's Australian tour, although it cannot truly be called an Ashes tour until both sides can select from all players in their

countries. That happy day is as far away as ever, because the battle between Super League and the Australian Rugby League will continue - at the turnstile and the TV remote control rather than in court - throughout the year.

Of equal significance is the relationship between the two codes of rugby and how that will develop now that union is openly professional and league - or at least parts of it - is nervous.

In the short-term, there will be a trickle of players lost: Will Va'ega Tuigamala ever be primarily a Wigan player again, for instance? Over the longer run, league needs to be strong and unified if some clubs are not to start thinking of moving in the same direction. There are those who already see re-absorption as a historical inevitability. That would be a tragedy, because the reasons that some of us infinitely prefer league remain as valid as ever.

Prediction: St Helens to show that they have the necessary resilience to retain the Stones Super League Championship.

Domestically, the club game in England will inherit a new controlling body made up of representatives from the Rugby Football Union and the leading professional teams. Up until now the two sides would have

been happier slithering around in a mud wrestling pit than sitting at a table, but they are going to have to learn to love each other. Go on, Sir John, give Cliff a kiss.

Perhaps the most intriguing issue surrounds the long-term successor to Jack Rowell as England coach. Not that Jack is likely to jump ship in the foreseeable future, but one of the disturbing aspects of the national set-up is that there is a complete lack of any realistic pretender to his throne. Ian McGeechan, a Scot from tip to toe, may emerge as a rival if the Lions make a decent fist of it. We shall see.

Predictions: The Lions to lose by the odd Test in South Africa; England to pinch the Five Nations; and Leicester to win any two of the three major club trophies.

MOTOR RACING

Derick Allsop

Germans set to rule

The appetite for the 1997 world championship has already been sharpened by the unveiling of new teams, new cars and new drivers, but come the opening race, in Australia on 9 March, the likelihood is we shall have a familiar scenario at the front: Williams versus Schumacher.

Winter's dark months have been illuminated by the stony eyes of Stewart, Lola and a revamped Arrows, and by the blaze of publicity surrounding Nigel Mansell's latest, ill-fated coming.

A close season scarcely exists in modern Formula One and ITV, new guardians of mechanical combat's top show on these shores, will be grateful for all the hype that can be mustered. When the racing begins, British drivers are going to be out of the picture.

Williams should again be the team to beat, and Jacques Villeneuve's experience of the title contest last season ought to arm him with a crucial advantage over his new team-mate, Germany's Heinz-Harald Frentzen.

However, Frentzen's admirers will tell you he was once quicker than his compatriot, Michael Schumacher, and that he might still be. Even if he is nearly as quick as Schumacher, he may be too hot for the Canadian.

Frentzen has had a tendency to push his car over the limit, but that should not be necessary in a Williams. The critical factor could be how he copes with the expectations of his team, who demonstrably signed him to beat Schumacher.

Ferrari are optimistic their latest creation will give Schumacher more muscle this year and, although the champion of 1994 and 1995 is characteristically cautious, a car remotely close to the capability of the Williams should be enough to return the title to its rightful owner.

Prediction: A supercharged contest for the title between Schumacher and Frentzen.

Domestically, the club game in England will inherit a new controlling body made up of representatives from the Rugby Football Union and the leading professional teams. Up until now the two sides would have

been happier slithering around in a mud wrestling pit than sitting at a table, but they are going to have to learn to love each other. Go on, Sir John, give Cliff a kiss.

Perhaps the most intriguing issue surrounds the long-term successor to Jack Rowell as England coach. Not that Jack is likely to jump ship in the foreseeable future, but one of the disturbing aspects of the national set-up is that there is a complete lack of any realistic pretender to his throne. Ian McGeechan, a Scot from tip to toe, may emerge as a rival if the Lions make a decent fist of it. We shall see.

Predictions: The Lions to lose by the odd Test in South Africa; England to pinch the Five Nations; and Leicester to win any two of the three major club trophies.

Domestically, the club game in England will inherit a new controlling body made up of representatives from the Rugby Football Union and the leading professional teams. Up until now the two sides would have

been happier slithering around in a mud wrestling pit than sitting at a table, but they are going to have to learn to love each other. Go on, Sir John, give Cliff a kiss.

Predictions: The Lions to lose by the odd Test in South Africa; England to pinch the Five Nations; and Leicester to win any two of the three major club trophies.

GOLF

Andy Farrell

Woods to come of age

The scary part about Tiger Woods being elected *Sport Illustrated's* Sportsman of the Year is how often he will win it in the future. He may have won an unprecedented third successive US Amateur title, picked up rookie endorsements of \$60m (£36m) and won two of his first seven pro events, but what about when he wins a major championship, several majors, the Grand Slam?

The even scarier part is that one of those wins came when he was suffering from a groin strain, the other a heavy cold. As Woods said: "I haven't played my best golf yet."

Woods' first professional major will be the US Masters in April. He has already played Augusta National twice and his long-hitting game is made for the place. Last year, Jack Nicklaus said Woods would surpass his and Arnold Palmer's tally of 10 Green Jackets.

But Woods, 21 last Monday, will not steal the whole show. The US Open, at Congressional in June, will spotlight Nick Faldo's desire to win that elusive title.

The Open will put Colin Montgomerie centre stage. It takes place in July at Royal Troon, where Monty's father is the club secretary. A major for the Scot is a far higher priority than a fifth Order of Merit.

And make no mistake, the Ryder Cup will be the Seve Ballesteros show, whether just captaining or playing, too. The Americans are once again dominating the world rankings while the Europeans are in transition. Anything could happen.

It can only be hoped that Jose Maria Olazabal's rheumatoid arthritis will allow him to return after not playing a tournament in over a year. But Canadian Randi Wilson, 9, will not touch a golf club. She holed in one with her first shot on a golf course but gave up after nine holes. "The first hole was great," she said, "but the rest of it sucked."

Predictions: Majors for Woods, Faldo, Montgomerie and Phil Mickelson, but not necessarily in that order.

Domestically, the club game in England will inherit a new controlling body made up of representatives from the Rugby Football Union and the leading professional teams. Up until now the two sides would have

been happier slithering around in a mud wrestling pit than sitting at a table, but they are going to have to learn to love each other. Go on, Sir John, give Cliff a kiss.

Perhaps the most intriguing issue surrounds the long-term successor to Jack Rowell as England coach. Not that Jack is likely to jump ship in the foreseeable future, but one of the disturbing aspects of the national set-up is that there is a complete lack of any realistic pretender to his throne. Ian McGeechan, a Scot from tip to toe, may emerge as a rival if the Lions make a decent fist of it. We shall see.

Predictions: The Lions to lose by the odd Test in South Africa; England to pinch the Five Nations; and Leicester to win any two of the three major club trophies.

TENNIS

Simon O'Hagan

Consolidation for Henman

Last year was the first since 1991 that there had been two first-time winners in Grand Slams - Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the French Open and Richard Krajicek at Wimbledon - and relatively youthful they were too. But to take this as an indication that tennis's world order was changing would have been premature.

Perhaps the most notable aspect of the game as we go into the new year is the way the positions of the older guard - in the form of Pete Sampras, Boris Becker and Michael Chang - have become entrenched. At 29, Becker's defiance of the years is the most remarkable. Later this month he defends his Australian Open title on the back of his demolition of the opposition in the Grand Slam Cup at the beginning of December. Sampras, aged 25, followed his victory in the 1996 US Open by beating Becker to the ATP Championship title in a match that produced some of the best tennis seen for years. And Chang, al-

though still only 24, seemed to have been drifting until he reached two Grand Slam finals last year.

Who can stop them this year? Not, on the face of it, Andre Agassi, who misses the Australian Open while his thoughts are elsewhere. But Goran Ivanisevic had a tremendous end to '96, and Kafelnikov appears to have a better chance of avoiding the one-hit wonder tag than the troubled Krajicek. It would be fanciful to expect Grand Slam victories of Tim Henman. A year of consolidation may be a more realistic aim. But he is one of the younger men to look out for, along with Thomas Enqvist of Sweden and Mark Philippoussis of Australia.

As Monica Seles continues to struggle with injury, the big question on the women's side is whether Martina Hingis can beat the burn-out and give Steffi Graf a run for her money. The game needs that.

Prediction: Hingis to win a Grand Slam.

Domestically, the club game in England will inherit a new controlling body made up of representatives from the Rugby Football Union and the leading professional teams. Up until now the two sides would have

been happier slithering around in a mud wrestling pit than sitting at a table, but they are going to have to learn to love each other. Go on, Sir John, give Cliff a kiss.

Perhaps the most intriguing issue surrounds the long-term successor to Jack Rowell as England coach. Not that Jack is likely to jump ship in the foreseeable future, but one of the disturbing aspects of the national set-up is that there is a complete lack of any realistic pretender to his throne. Ian McGeechan, a Scot from tip to toe, may emerge as a rival if the Lions make a decent fist of it. We shall see.

Predictions: The Lions to lose by the odd Test in South Africa; England to pinch the Five Nations; and Leicester to win any two of the three major club trophies.

Domestically, the club game in England will inherit a new controlling body made up of representatives from the Rugby Football Union and the leading professional teams. Up until now the two sides would have

been happier slithering around in a mud wrestling pit than sitting at a table, but they are going to have to learn to love each other. Go on, Sir John, give Cliff a kiss.

Predictions: The Lions to lose by the odd Test in South Africa; England to pinch the Five Nations; and Leicester to win any two of the three major club trophies.

Consolidation for Henman

Simon O'Hagan

Last year was the first since 1991 that there had been two first-time winners in Grand Slams - Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the French Open and Richard Krajicek at Wimbledon - and relatively youthful they were too

Pick of the Day

The Mill on the Floss

9pm BBC1

This current cycle of costume dramas, started by *Middlemarch* in 1995, develops a nice symmetry as George Eliot is once again called upon to provide the source material - this time, her earlier novel about the spirited daughter of a mill-house owner. This production, written by Hugh Stoddart and directed by Graham Theakston, is bracingly austere and intelligent, starring the unfamiliar but excellent Emily Watson and James Frain.



Pick of the Day

The Tony Ferrino Phenomenon

9.20pm BBC2

Steve Coogan's latest creation - endlessly trailed on chat shows over the past few weeks - finally gets to take off in full flight. Ferrino is a spangly, sex-and-self-obsessed Portuguese crooner - and this showcase boasts some very funny and well-staged musical numbers, loads of deliberately awful double entendres, and much mirth at the expense of Eurotrash pop and TV. Mick Hucknall, Kim Wilde and Gary Wilmot play themselves and extend the joke.

New Year's Day television and radio

BBC 1

- 7.00 Children's BBC: Joe 90, 7.25 Playdays, 7.45 Postman Pat, 8.00 Peter Pan and the Pirates, 8.20 Bogdan and Badger, 8.35 The Legend of Prince Valiant, 9.00 Incredible Games, 9.25 Sweet Valley High, 9.50 Record Breakers Gold, 10.15 Blue Peter Magic Moments.
- 10.45 **Bigfoot** (The Hendersons) (William Dear 1987 US). John Lithgow - he of *Third Rock from the Sun* - and his family go camping in the mountains and discover a shaggy beast - who then decides to come home with them (12370401).
- 12.30 **Wipeout** (S) (49826). 1.00 News and Weather (96778772). 1.08 Local News and Weather (96778772). 1.10 Neighbours (80650401). 1.30 The World of Peter Rabbit and Friends (R) (48197).
- 2.00 **Porridge** (Dick Clement 1979 UK). So-so spin-off from the wonderful TV series finds the regulars all present and correct (77420).
- 3.30 **Global Sunrise**. Cameras capture the rising of the sun on the same morning (1 January 1996) from 20 different locations throughout the world, through six continents and every time zone. Julian Pettifer is your host (S) (6109333).
- 4.50 **Final Score** (S) (1947710).
- 5.10 News and Weather (7431277).
- 5.20 **Regional News** (9647130).
- 5.25 Tom and Jerry (1823517).
- 5.45 Neighbours. Stories' birthday (S) (852420).
- 6.10 **ET: The Extra-Terrestrial** (Steven Spielberg 1982 US). From a time when extra-terrestrials were considered benign, Spielberg's magical blockbuster about a lonely 10-year-old boy (Henry Thomas) who befriends an alien left on earth by a visiting spaceship (S) (669992).
- 8.00 **Ronnie Barker: A Life in Comedy**. The Gun/nor, as David Jason used to - still does, probably - call him, gives his first television interview since he retired eight years ago. Among the clips from *The Two Ronnies*, *Porridge* and so on are parodies from Jason's *Nicholas Lyndhurst*, Michael Palin and Ronnie Corbett (S) (162389).
- 8.40 News, Regional News and Weather (226771).
- 9.00 **The Mill on the Floss**. See *Pick of the Day*, above (S) (18593802).
- 11.05 **Match of the Day**. Highlights of Manchester United's New Year's Day clash with Aston Villa at Old Trafford - plus all the goals from today's Premiership matches. Desmond Lynam and Trevor Brooking are on studio duty (S) (978420).
- 12.10 **Big Jake** (George Sherman 1971 US). Surprisingly violent John Wayne western, an uneasy mixture of traditional Wayne-like stoics and heros and modish *Batman*-style shenanigans. The "Duke" plays an ageing Texan rancher who rides to the rescue when his ex-wife asks him to help find their kidnapped grandson. Richard Boone, Maureen O'Hara, Chris Mitchum and Patrick Wayne co-star (134591).
- 1.55 Weather (2815840). To 2.00am.

BBC 2

- 7.30 **Blockade** (William Dieterle 1938 US). Henry Fonda and Madeleine Carroll fall in love against a backdrop of the Spanish Civil War - a cause célèbre for liberals in Hollywood, as elsewhere (5992604).
- 8.50 **Fonda on Fonda**. Jane Fonda hosts a tribute to father, Henry (R) (209333).
- 9.40 **My Darling Clementine** (John Ford 1946 US). Fonda's Wyatt Earp and Victor Mature's Doc Holliday head for the OK Corral in this classic piece of Fordian mythologising (22538401).
- 11.15 **New Year's Day Concert** from Vienna. The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and a concert of Strauss polkas, waltzes and marches. A simultaneous broadcast with Radio 3 (S) (6087468).
- 12.30 **The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures**. Professor Conway Morris delivers his final lecture tracing the process of evolution (S) (33994).
- 1.30 **Olympic Gymnastics**. Highlights from the gymnastic events at this summer's Olympic Games in Atlanta. With Barry Davies (34623).
- 2.30 **New York City Ballet Salutes George Balanchine**. From 1993, as Viviana Durante and the New York City Ballet mark the 10th anniversary of the choreographer's death (S) (4902913).
- 3.55 **Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory** (Mel Stuart 1971 US). Gene Wilder stars as the eccentric confectioner who takes a group of youngsters and their guardians on a tour of his factory in this version of Roald Dahl's much-loved children's story (636178).
- 5.30 **Sid Sunday Special** (S) (983536).
- 6.10 **In the Eye of the Wind**. David Attenborough narrates the story of migrating birds (S) (626739).
- 7.00 **Waiting for God**. 1993's seasonal episode of the indie sitcom (R) (S) (2333).
- 7.30 **University Challenge International Special**. British champions Imperial College London taking on their American counterparts, the University of Michigan, in the title of International Champions (S) (5).
- 8.00 **The Travel Show Caribbean Special**. With Amanda Redman in Puerto Rico, the *Independent's* Simon Calder on the island of Dominica, and comedian Arthur Smith in Antigua (S) (467771).
- 8.40 **Shooting Stars**. Ex-Casualty star Clive Mantle joins Neil Morrissey, former *Brookside* lipstick lesbian Anna Friel and 1970s rockabilly gangster Alvin Stardust for seasonal Vic 'n' Bobbery (107420).
- 9.20 **The Tony Ferrino Phenomenon**. See *Pick of the Day*, above (S) (989532).
- 10.10 **Short Cuts** (Robert Altman 1993 US). The Altman revival, started by *The Player*, continued with his filming of some of Raymond Carver short stories - turning them into an engrossing portmanteau movie looking at contrasting lifestyles of various Californian types. More Altman than Carver, really, but worth while. The cast includes Andie MacDowell, Tim Robbins, Jennifer Jason Leigh and Jack Black (3818855).
- 1.15 Weather (5031227). To 2.00am.

ITV/London

- 6.00 GMTV (1184081). 9.25 Santo Bugito (S) (8225994). 9.50 Cartoon Time (2683623).
- 10.10 **A Man for All Seasons** (Fred Zinnemann 1956 UK). Robert Bolt's one-sided dig-dag-between Henry VIII (Robert Shaw) and Sir Thomas More (Paul Scofield) brought respectfully to the screen Wendy Hiller, Susanam, John Hurt and Orson Welles support (50731994).
- 12.30 News (2532449). 12.45 **Celebrity Squares** (S) (936046).
- 1.15 **Silverado** (Lawrence Kasdan 1985 US). Kasdan's self-conscious and rather over-rated western about a mismatched quartet (Kevin Kline, Kevin Costner, Danny Glover and Scott Glenn) teaming up to save a run-down town from outlaws. Jeff Goldblum, Rosanna Arquette and John Cusack also star (49001710).
- 3.40 **Straight Talk** (Barnet Kellman 1992 US). Country gal Dolly Parton trucks up in Chicago, is mistaken for a radio stink, but wows them anyway with her down-home advice. James Woods and Griffin Dunne are also implicated (350246).
- 5.20 News, Weather (6234771).
- 5.35 **Feds** (Dan Goldberg 1988 US). Rebecca De Mornay deserves and usually receives better parts than this - as one of a pair of female FBI recruits dealing with male chauvinism (S) (1634791).
- 7.00 **Emmerdale**. Sophie reluctantly faces up to the consequences of last night (S) (6155).
- 7.30 **Coronation Street**. Mike and Alma's big dinner party goes awry (81).
- 8.00 **Des O'Connor Tonight**. The seasoned schmoezer's guests are Barbara Streisand, Damage, Jemini and Ken Dodd (S) (6802).
- 9.00 **Die Hard** (John McTiernan 1988 US). The original and still the best of these wham-bang-smash-allop marathons starring Bruce Willis as the LA cop who keeps mislaying his wife (Bonnie Bedelia). Alan Rickman steals the picture, though, as super-villain Hans Gruber (S) (6633155).
- 11.25 News, Weather (785178).
- 11.40 **Lifepod** (Ron Silver 1993 US). Sub-Alien sci-fi drama about the survivors of a spaceship disaster coming to terms with being trapped in a drifting escape pod and the fact that the saboteur behind their mishap is still at large (S) (907975).
- 1.20 **Are You Being Served?** (Bob Kellett 1977 UK). The staff of Grace Bros go on a package tour to the coast in this big-screen spin-off (904918).
- 3.05 **Till Death Us Do Part** (Norman Corbin 1968 UK). Another spin-off - this one more ambitious than most - a history, no less, of the Garnett family from the Blitz to the 1966 World Cup. Social history courtesy of Johnny Spight, and starring Warren Mitchell, Dandy Nichols, Una Stubbs and Anthony Booth (345111).
- 4.50 **Football Extra** (R) (4135869).
- 5.30 **The Making of Star Trek: First Contact** (5898383). To 5.55am.

Channel 4

- 6.20 **Early Morning**. Sesame Street (5920505).
- 7.20 **The BabySitters Club** (R) (8461449).
- 7.50 **Stunt Dams** (2864449).
- 8.15 **Life Shop** (R) (8646420).
- 8.35 **Where on Earth is Carmen San Diego?** (R) (S) (930375).
- 9.00 **The Big Breakfast** (99081).
- 10.00 **Headbanger's Ball** (R) (S) (87449).
- 10.30 **The Crystal Maze** (R) (S) (24246).
- 11.30 **Back to the Future** (R) (S) (6573541).
- 11.55 **The Pink Panther** (R) (S) (782438).
- 12.20 **Rock's Modern Life** (R) (S) (6564265).
- 12.45 **Soul Searching**. A Jewish woman, pregnant by a married man, wants to have the baby brought up within her faith (S) (736028).
- 1.15 **Racing from Cheltenham**. The 1.35, 2.10, 2.45 and 3.20 races (49090604).
- 3.45 **The Beast Bites Back** (R) (S) (2559772).
- 4.30 **Countdown** (S) (94).
- 5.00 News and Weather (9650604).
- 5.05 **I'm All Right Jack** (John Boulting 1959 UK). In this classic British labour relations as satirised in this classic Boulting Brothers comedy, Ian Carmichael is in the blue corner - stop-steward Peter Sellers is in the red one (22878604).
- 7.00 **Brookside**. Jimmy says his goodbyes, but is he really leaving for good this time? (S) (3449).
- 8.30 **A Woman of Independent Means**. 2/3. Continuing the mini-series starring Sally Field as the southern belle. Concludes tomorrow (S) (38568517).
- 10.15 **Klink!** In the footsteps of last Christmas's *Pallies*. British actors add surreal voice-overs to a Dutch television medical soap opera (S) (647807).
- 10.25 **Caws**. Eddie Izzard's long-awaited debut sitcom, about a family of cattle (Pam Ferris and others in cow masks), and it's a stinker. It just doesn't work - although, on the plus side, at least it's original and has moments when sheer incredulity forces out the odd laugh. Not even out material (S) (799077).
- 11.25 **Big Breakers** (Stuart Rosenberg 1990 US). Impressive reforming prison drama, based on events in Arkansas in the late 1960s, where prisoners were hired out by car-carrying convicts guards to farms and businesses in the region. Robert Redford is the newly appointed liberal-minded governor (27986468).
- 1.50 **Being There** (Hal Ashby 1979 US). The Peter Sellers season continues with this influential parable about how America is taken in by the sort of homely ignorance it mistakes for deep wisdom. Sellers is the gardener who gets to the White House. Shirley MacLaine supports (61403685).
- 4.15 **Hoffman** (Alvin Rakoff 1970 UK). Off-the-wall black comedy in which middle-aged loner Peter Sellers falls in love with his typist (Sinead Cusack) and attempts to blackmail her into spending a week with him (408840). To 6.00am.

ITV/Regions

- ANGLIA**
As London except: 12.45pm Cross Writ (936046). 5.34 Anglia Air Watch (506040). 11.39 Anglia Weather (850265). 1.20am Film: Bite the Bullet (33277598). 3.45am Film: A Tale of Two Cities (3046024).
- CHANNEL 3 NORTH EAST/YORKSHIRE**
As London except: 12.45pm Local Weather (936046). 5.34 Yorks: Local Weather (936046). 11.39 Yorks: Local Weather (936046). 1.20am Film: Bite the Bullet (33277598). 3.45am Film: A Tale of Two Cities (3046024).
- CENTRAL**
As London except: 11.39pm Local Weather (850265). 5.34-5.55am The Making of Star Trek: Beyond First Contact (5898383).
- HTV**
As London except: 12.44pm HTV Weather (36148197). 12.45 The Making of James and the Giant Peach (936046). 5.34 HTV Weather (936046). 11.39 HTV Weather (936046). 1.20am Film: Bite the Bullet (33277598). 3.45am Film: A Tale of Two Cities (3046024).
- MERIDIAN**
As London except: 12.45pm Meridian of Wonder (936046). 1.20am Film: Bite the Bullet (33277598). 3.45am Film: A Tale of Two Cities (3046024).
- WESTCOUNTRY**
As London except: 12.45pm Meridian of Wonder (936046). 1.20am Film: Bite the Bullet (33277598). 3.45am Film: A Tale of Two Cities (3046024).
- S4C**
6.20am Sesame Street (6920505). 7.20 The BabySitters Club. (R) (8461449). 8.15 Little Shop. (R) (8646420). 8.35 Where on Earth is Carmen San Diego? (R) (930375). 10.00 Film: Tom Thum (1743759). 11.45 The Adventures of Mole (164371). 12.45pm S4C Meilhirn (736028). 4.30 Famous Fed (94). 5.00 5 Pump (7265). 5.30 Countdown (46). 6.00 News (497772). 6.05 Hano (877445). 8.35 Sion a Sian (771642). 9.00 Paddy C (976420). 7.25 MDM: Yr Eidd (241517). 8.00 Stewart Whyte McEwan Jones (790994). 8.45 News (243159). 9.00 Pavarotti Returns to Llangollen (2555). 10.30 Brookside (488). 10.55 Klink! (196284). 11.20 Cows (909517). 12.15am Caroline in the City (38383). 12.45-12.55am Homicide: Life in the Street (271208).

Radio

- Radio 1**
6.00am Charlie Jordan 10.00 Radio 1's Top 100 Hits 6.00 Steve Lamacq's Hits for '97 8.00 Staying Out for the Summer 11.00 In Concert: Orishal 12.00 Mary Anne Hobbs 4.00-5.00am Charlie Jordan
- Radio 2**
6.00am Jim Barrackclough 8.05 Sarah Kennedy 10.00 Alex Lester 1.00 Christmas Comedy Classics 1.30 The Beatles at the BBC 2.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Eddie Mair or Brian 8.50 Love on the Edge 9.30 Carlo Cruz: Pavarotti of the Organ 10.00 Vintage Christmas: The Palace 11.00 Bob Harris 1.00 Adrian Fingleton 3.00-6.00am Steve Middled
- Radio 3**
6.00am On Air 9.00 Morning Collection. 10.15 New Year's Day Concert. Live from the Golden Hall of the Vienna Musikverein. A concert of music by the Strauss family and friends, performed by the Vienna Philharmonic. See *Choice*, above. 12.25 Hopes and Resolutions. Music from the Renaissance to celebrate the New Year. 1.00 Composer of the Week. Bernstein. 2.00 Midweek Choice. 4.00 Choral Evensong. 5.00 Music Machine. 5.15 Interpretations on Record.

Choice

- An emperor's carriage with golden wheels, a gypsy fortune-teller, Mrs Karl Marx's parlour-maid... what connects the gripping anecdotes in *Golden Spokes* (7.45pm R4) is the uneven relationship between history and memory. Plain old nostalgia in the New Year's Day concert (10.15am R3), conducted by Riccardo Muti.
- Radio 4**
6.00am BBC News 6.00am News 6.10am News Today 6.15am News Today 6.20am News Today 6.25am News Today 6.30am News Today 6.35am News Today 6.40am News Today 6.45am News Today 6.50am News Today 6.55am News Today 7.00am News Today 7.05am News Today 7.10am News Today 7.15am News Today 7.20am News Today 7.25am News Today 7.30am News Today 7.35am News Today 7.40am News Today 7.45am News Today 7.50am News Today 7.55am News Today 8.00am News Today 8.05am News Today 8.10am News Today 8.15am News Today 8.20am News Today 8.25am News Today 8.30am News Today 8.35am News Today 8.40am News Today 8.45am News Today 8.50am News Today 8.55am News Today 9.00am News Today 9.05am News Today 9.10am News Today 9.15am News Today 9.20am News Today 9.25am News Today 9.30am News Today 9.35am News Today 9.40am News Today 9.45am News Today 9.50am News Today 10.00am News Today 10.05am News Today 10.10am News Today 10.15am News Today 10.20am News Today 10.25am News Today 10.30am News Today 10.35am News Today 10.40am News Today 10.45am News Today 10.50am News Today 10.55am News Today 11.00am News Today 11.05am News Today 11.10am News Today 11.15am News Today 11.20am News Today 11.25am News Today 11.30am News Today 11.35am News Today 11.40am News Today 11.45am News Today 11.50am News Today 11.55am News Today 12.00am News Today 12.05am News Today 12.10am News Today 12.15am News Today 12.20am News Today 12.25am News Today 12.30am News Today 12.35am News Today 12.40am News Today 12.45am News Today 12.50am News Today 12.55am News Today 1.00am News Today 1.05am News Today 1.10am News Today 1.15am News Today 1.20am News Today 1.25am News Today 1.30am News Today 1.35am News Today 1.40am News Today 1.45am News Today 1.50am News Today 1.55am News Today 2.00am News Today 2.05am News Today 2.10am News Today 2.15am News Today 2.20am News Today 2.25am News Today 2.30am News Today 2.35am News Today 2.40am News Today 2.45am News Today 2.50am News Today 2.55am News Today 3.00am News Today 3.05am News Today 3.10am News Today 3.15am News Today 3.20am News Today 3.25am News Today 3.30am News Today 3.35am News Today 3.40am News Today 3.45am News Today 3.50am News Today 3.55am News Today 4.00am News Today 4.05am News Today 4.10am News Today 4.15am News Today 4.20am News Today 4.25am News Today 4.30am News Today 4.35am News Today 4.40am News Today 4.45am News Today 4.50am News Today 4.55am News Today 5.00am News Today 5.05am News Today 5.10am News Today 5.15am News Today 5.20am News Today 5.25am News Today 5.30am News Today 5.35am News Today 5.40am News Today 5.45am News Today 5.50am News Today 5.55am News Today 6.00am News Today 6.05am News Today 6.10am News Today 6.15am News Today 6.20am News Today 6.25am News Today 6.30am News Today 6.35am News Today 6.40am News Today 6.45am News Today 6.50am News Today 6.55am News Today 7.00am News Today 7.05am News Today 7.10am News Today 7.15am News Today 7.20am News Today 7.25am News Today 7.30am News Today 7.35am News Today 7.40am News Today 7.45am News Today 7.50am News Today 7.55am News Today 8.00am News Today 8.05am News Today 8.10am News Today 8.15am News Today 8.20am News Today 8.25am News Today 8.30am News Today 8.35am News Today 8.40am News Today 8.45am News Today 8.50am News Today 8.55am News Today 9.00am News Today 9.05am News Today 9.10am News Today 9.15am News Today 9.20am News Today 9.25am News Today 9.30am News Today 9.35am News Today 9.40am News Today 9.45am News Today 9.50am News Today 10.00am News Today 10.05am News Today 10.10am News Today 10.15am News Today 10.20am News Today 10.25am News Today 10.30am News Today 10.35am News Today 10.40am News Today 10.45am News Today 10.50am News Today 10.55am News Today 11.00am News Today 11.05am News Today 11.10am News Today 11.15am News Today 11.20am News Today 11.25am News Today 11.30am News Today 11.35am News Today 11.40am News Today 11.45am News Today 11.50am News Today 11.55am News Today 12.00am News Today 12.05am News Today 12.10am News Today 12.15am News Today 12.20am News Today 12.25am News Today 12.30am News Today 12.35am News Today 12.40am News Today 12.45am News Today 12.50am News Today 12.55am News Today 1.00am News Today 1.05am News Today 1.10am News Today 1.15am News Today 1.20am News Today 1.25am News Today 1.30am News Today 1.35am News Today 1.40am News Today 1.45am News Today 1.50am News Today 1.55am News Today 2.00am News Today 2.05am News Today 2.10am News Today 2.15am News Today 2.20am News Today 2.25am News Today 2.30am News Today 2.35am News Today 2.40am News Today 2.45am News Today 2.50am News Today 2.55am News Today 3.00am News Today 3.05am News Today 3.10am News Today 3.15am News Today 3.20am News Today 3.25am News Today 3.30am News Today 3.35am News Today 3.40am News Today 3.45am News Today 3.50am News Today 3.55am News Today 4.00am News Today 4.05am News Today 4.10am News Today 4.15am News Today 4.20am News Today 4.25am News Today 4.30am News Today 4.35am News Today 4.40am News Today 4.45am News Today 4.50am News Today 4.55am News Today 5.00am News Today 5.05am News Today 5.10am News Today 5.15am News Today 5.20am News Today 5.25am News Today 5.30am News Today 5.35am News Today 5.40am News Today 5.45am News Today 5.50am News Today 5.55am News Today 6.00am News Today 6.05am News Today 6.10am News Today 6.15am News Today 6.20am News Today 6.25am News Today 6.30am News Today 6.35am News Today 6.40am News Today 6.45am News Today 6.50am News Today 6.55am News Today 7.00am News Today 7.05am News Today 7.10am News Today 7.15am News Today 7.20am News Today 7.25am News Today 7.30am News Today 7.35am News Today 7.40am News Today 7.45am News Today 7.50am News Today 7.55am News Today 8.00am News Today 8.05am News Today 8.10am News Today 8.15am News Today 8.20am News Today 8.25am News Today 8.30am News Today 8.35am News Today 8.40am News Today 8.45am News Today 8.50am News Today 8.55am News Today 9.00am News Today 9.05am News Today 9.10am News Today 9.15am News Today 9.20am News Today 9.25am News Today 9.30am News Today 9.35am News Today 9.40am News Today 9.45am News Today 9.50am News Today 10.00am News Today 10.05am News Today 10.10am News Today 10.15am News Today 10.20am News Today 10.25am News Today 10.30am News Today 10.35am News Today 10.40am News Today 10.45am News Today 10.50am News Today 10.55am News Today 11.00am News Today 11.05am News Today 11.10am News Today 11.15am News Today 11.20am News Today 11.25am News Today 11.30am News Today 11.35am News Today 11.40am News Today 11.45am News Today 11.50am News Today 11.55am News Today 12.00am News Today 12.05am News Today 12.10am News Today 12.15am News Today 12.20am News Today 12.25am News Today 12.30am News Today 12.35am News Today 12.40am News Today 12.45am News Today 12.50am News Today 12.55am News Today 1.00am News Today 1.05am News Today 1.10am News Today 1.15am News Today 1.20am News Today 1.25am News Today 1.30am News Today 1.35am News Today 1.40am News Today 1.45am News Today 1.50am News Today 1.55am News Today 2.00am News Today 2.05am News Today 2.10am News Today 2.15am News Today 2.20am News Today 2.25am News Today 2.30am News Today 2.35am News Today 2.40am News Today 2.45am News Today 2.50am News Today 2.55am News Today 3.00am News Today 3.05am News Today 3.10am News Today 3.15am News Today 3.20am News Today 3.25am News Today 3.30am News Today 3.35am News Today 3.40am News Today 3.45am News Today 3.50am News Today 3.55am News Today 4.00am News Today 4.05am News Today 4.10am News Today 4.15am News Today 4.20am News Today 4.25am News Today 4.30am News Today 4.35am News Today 4.40am News Today 4.45am News Today 4.50am News Today 4.55am News Today 5.00am News Today 5.05am News Today 5.10am News Today 5.15am News Today 5.20am News Today 5.25am News Today 5.30am News Today 5.35am News Today 5.40am News Today 5.45am News Today 5.50am News Today 5.55am News Today 6.00am News Today 6.05am News Today 6.10am News Today 6.15am News Today 6.20am News Today 6.25am News Today 6.30am News Today 6.35am News Today 6.40am News Today 6.45am News Today 6.50am News Today 6.55am News Today 7.00am News Today 7.05am News Today 7.10am News Today 7.15am News Today 7.20am News Today 7.25am News Today 7.30am News Today 7.35am News Today 7.40am News Today 7.45am News Today 7.50am News Today 7.55am News Today 8.00am News Today 8.05am News Today 8.10am News Today 8.15am News Today 8.20am News Today 8.25am News Today 8.30am News Today 8.35am News Today 8.40am News Today 8.45am News Today 8.50am News Today 8.55am News Today 9.00am News Today 9.05am News Today 9.10am News Today 9.15am News Today 9.20am News Today 9.25am News Today 9.30am News Today 9.35am News Today 9.40am News Today 9.45am News Today 9.50am News Today 10.00am News Today 10.05am News Today 10.10am News Today 10.15am News Today 10.20am News Today 10.25am News Today 10.30am News Today 10.35am News Today 10.40am News Today 10.45am News Today 10.50am News Today 10.55am News Today 11.00am News Today 11.05am News Today 11.10am News Today 11.15am News Today 11.20am News Today 11.25am News Today 11.30am News Today 11.35am News Today 11.40am News Today 11.45am News Today 11.50am News Today 11.55am News Today 12.00am News Today 12.05am News Today 12.10am News Today 12.15am News Today 12.20am News Today 12.25am News Today 12.30am News Today 12.35am News Today 12.40am News Today 12.45am News Today 12.50am News Today 12.55am News Today 1.00am News Today 1.05am News Today 1.10am News Today 1.15am News Today 1.20am News Today 1.25am News Today 1.30am News Today 1.35am News Today 1.40am News Today 1.45am News Today 1.50am News Today 1.55am News Today 2.00am News Today 2.05am News Today 2.10am News Today 2.15am News Today 2.20am News Today 2.25am News Today 2.30am News Today 2.35am News Today 2.40am News Today 2.45am News Today 2.50am News Today 2.55am News Today 3.00am News Today 3.05am News Today 3.10am News Today 3.15am News Today 3.20am News Today 3.25am News Today 3.30am News Today 3.35am News Today 3.40am News Today 3.45am News Today 3.50am News Today 3.55am News Today 4.00am News Today 4.05am News Today 4.10am News Today 4.15am News Today 4.20am News Today 4.25am News Today 4.30am News Today 4.35am News Today 4.40am News Today 4.45am News Today 4.50am News Today 4.55am News Today 5.00am News Today 5.05am News Today 5.10am News Today 5.15am News Today 5.20am News Today 5.25am News Today 5.30am News Today 5.35am News Today 5.40am News Today 5.45am News Today 5.50am News Today 5.55am News Today 6.00am News Today 6.05am News Today 6.10am News Today 6.15am News Today 6.20am News Today 6.25am News Today 6.30am News Today 6.35am News Today 6.40am News Today 6.45am News Today 6.50am News Today 6.55am News Today 7.00am News Today 7.05am News Today 7.10am News Today 7.15am News Today 7.20am News Today 7.25am News Today 7.30am News Today 7.35am News Today 7.40am News Today 7.45am News Today 7.50am News Today 7.55am News Today 8.00am News Today 8.05am News Today 8.10am News Today 8.15am News Today 8.20am News Today 8.25am News Today 8.30am News Today 8.35am News Today 8.40am News Today 8.45am News Today 8.50am News Today 8.55am News Today 9.00am News Today 9.05am News Today 9.10am News Today 9.15am News Today 9.20am News Today 9.25am News Today 9.30am News Today 9.35am News Today 9.40am News Today 9.45am News Today 9.50am News Today 10.00am News Today 10.05am News Today 10.10am News Today 10.15am News Today 10.20am News Today 10.25am News Today 10.30am News Today 10.35am News Today 10.40am News Today 10.45am News Today 10.50am News Today 10.55am News Today 11.00am News Today 11.05am News Today 11.10am News Today 11.15am News Today 11.20am News Today 11.25am News Today 11.30am News Today 11.35am News Today 11.40am News Today 11.45am News Today 11.50am News Today 11.55am News Today 12.00am News Today 12.05am News Today 12.10am News Today 12.15am News Today 12.20am News Today 12.25am News Today 12.30am News Today 12.35am News Today 12.40am News Today 12.45am News Today 12.50am News Today 12.55am News Today 1.00am News Today 1.05am News Today 1.10am News Today 1.15am News Today 1.20am News Today 1.25am News Today 1.30am

1997 - The year ahead
Our writers' guide to the shape of things to come, page 18

sport

Gradi the barrier
Phil Shaw on an FA Cup test facing Wimbledon, page 16

Mercury moves in opposite directions for England's premier sportsmen

Winter bites into new year action

Nearly a quarter of a million football supporters in England will have to find something else to do today after the cold and snow bit deep into the New Year's Day programme.

Two Premiership games have already been postponed - Leicester's match against Tottenham and Derby's fixture with Sheffield Wednesday. The Nationwide League programme has been severely disrupted, as has the Scottish League. Motherwell's match against Kilmarnock became the first Premier Division casualty north of the border and in the Second Division only Livingston's match with Berwick remains.

Derby's game was called off on police advice, with manager Jim Smith saying: "There is no problem with the pitch but the approach roads to the ground are treacherous. It was in the interest of the fans to call the game off."

The Nationwide League top-of-the-table game between Sheffield United and Wolves was one of a number of matches in the First Division that has fallen victim. West Brom fans, however, are being given the chance to watch the home game against Tranmere Rovers for free if they help to clear a snow-covered Hawthorns. Supporters are being asked to bring along shovels, snowboards and brushes from 9am as the pitch covers and most of the surrounds are under a blanket of snow.

On the day that Coventry City announced that they are planning to install a new £300,000 underfloor heating system this summer, the flood of postponements is bound to fuel the debate about a winter break. John Barnwell, chief executive of the League Managers Association, said: "People say it is time to grasp the nettle and consider a winter break. But I don't think the situation is as clear cut as it was years ago."

"Many football clubs are now pines and, when you're a corporate business, you are affected by market forces. The Christmas period is a low money-spinner. I doubt if the finance experts at the big clubs, who have a major voice, would like to give up that revenue. The feeling among our members is that there should be some kind of a break."

One of the most attractive rugby union fixtures in Wales, Llanelli's match against Italy, has been called off. In rugby league, the friendlies between Dewsbury and Batley and Keighley and Huddersfield have been arranged for Sunday.

Of the seven race meetings scheduled for today, only Southwell's all-weather track has escaped, so far.

Fixtures, page 16



The England striker Alan Shearer trains in Durham yesterday, while the England strike bowler Darren Gough copes with the heat in Harare



Photographs: Bonney's, Newcastle/Chris Turvey, Empics

Consistency the key for Liverpool

Football
GUY HODGSON

It may have come as a shock yesterday that the screen queen Joan Collins was receiving an OBE rather than handing them out, but that was nothing to what Chelsea experienced at Anfield this season. Unbeaten after six Premiership matches a spanking new era looked likely until the rude reality intruded on Ruud Gullit's honeymoon as a player-manager.

Spanking was the word as they lost 5-1 that day. As a result the team has been defined in the classic Chelsea mould - good but not good enough - but that could change if they beat Liverpool today and set optimism raging round west London again.

A defeat against the leaders, on top of squandering a 2-0 lead against Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday, and Chelsea's inclination would surely be to play for a UEFA Cup place and concentrate on the FA Cup. "We need three points," Craig Burley, their midfielder player, said. "The Sheffield Wednesday result was a setback because we had played so well early on. We paid the penalty for not killing the game off."

Liverpool could give lessons in doing that but have established a five-point advantage despite hitting their finest form only fleetingly. "We can be frustrating at times," Roy Evans, their manager, conceded, "but if we concentrate on what we are good at, the results

usually come. The secret is to stay patient." Liverpool, who expect Robbie Fowler, Mark Wright and Jason McAteer to shake off injuries, are certain of going into the new year ahead which, in their case, normally means they stay there. Since 31 December 1976, they have been top team nine times at the turn of the year and have converted that into a championship on seven occasions.

On the minus side, Manchester United are the last side to convert second place at Highbury into first come May - in 1992 and 1995 - and their position this morning? It is not surprising their

manager, Alex Ferguson, has assumed the mood of a man who believes the best is imminent. Three straight wins and 10 goals without reply have moved United into second, a position they will reinforce if they defeat sixth-placed Aston Villa tonight.

Roy Keane, for one, believes the tide has turned. "At the start of the season we had a few injuries and the players weren't playing to their capabilities, but it's starting to come together now. All you need is three or four good results and it helps the confidence."

Ferguson will probably resist the urge to recall Andy Cole,

preferring to ease him back into the team with 20-minute bursts, and with Phil Neville out with glandular fever and Gary Palister plagued with a recurrent back injury, his only dilemma will be whether to include Nicky Butt in the starting line-up.

"Villa are a handful," Ferguson said. "They have recovered from a sticky start and are in good form at the moment. But we've also come through our little hiccup and our players are in the frame of mind where they don't mind who their opponents are."

Neither do Middlesbrough. They seem capable of losing to

anyone. They accrued just 28 points from their 35 League games in 1996 and in some of those matches they were able to call on something like their first team. It is not a luxury they will have against Arsenal today as seven players are definitely out and three more are doubtful. So dire is the situation that their manager, Bryan Robson, may make an unwanted playing swan-song 10 days before his 40th birthday.

To make things even worse for Boro, Ian Wright, the Premiership's leading scorer with 22 goals, will be anxious to leave a reminder before sloping

off on a three-match suspension.

A hat-trick would do nicely. Boro would prefer the match to be postponed although after last week's fiasco at Blackburn they are hardly likely to say so. But two Premiership games are definitely off today: Derby County against Sheffield Wednesday and Tottenham's match at Leicester. There was also an inspection at Highfield Road yesterday but Coventry are hopeful their game against Sunderland will go ahead.

After four successive victories, they can scarcely wait to get on to any pitch no matter what the condition. Any position for

that matter, because Coventry's run has coincided with Dion Dublin's move from striker to centre back and yesterday he refused suggestions he was unhappy with the change.

"I would rather play up front because I am a centre forward," he said, "but with the position we've been in it's a case of all hands to the pump. If that means going back into defence, then I'm willing to play there for the good of the team."

Defenders wishing to be attackers is a concept not unknown at Newcastle even if the reverse is not always the case, although it is hard to nit-pick after their 7-1 rout of Spurs on Saturday. Today they meet Leeds, who have not won in five matches and who are slipping towards the relegation zone again.

Everton are also sliding although, like Middlesbrough, with their injuries it is hardly surprising. Half their team are out today against reviving Blackburn and David Unsworth is missing through suspension. "What looked a bright picture two weeks ago with everyone fit has suddenly got a bit threadbare defensively," Joe Royle, their manager, said. "You can't have enough men these days."

It could have been Miss Collins talking.

Beasant blunder makes Taylor a Saint

ALAN NIXON

Dave Beasant may have made his last mistake for Southampton after Graeme Souness yesterday spent £600,000 on Barnet's German-born goal keeper, Malik Taylor.

Beasant made a hash of a clearance to gift John Barnes a goal and the points against Liverpool on Sunday, prompting the Southampton manager to lift Taylor, a 6ft 5in former soldier, from the Third Division.

The keeper has been registered in time to face Wimbledon today.

Frank Clark wants his old Nottingham Forest keeper, Tommy Wright, to join him at Manchester City. The new

Maine Road manager is trying to intercept the Northern Ireland international's move from Forest to Reading where he has been on loan. Wright is available at around £250,000.

Arsene Wenger is ready to re-join the bidding for Paul Ince if Internazionale put the England midfielder up for sale.

"We would think it over if Paul Ince became available," the Arsenal manager said. "Inter will decide the future of Ince, but, for his quality, yes we would be interested, just like many other clubs. There have been no bids or inquiries but I am looking at many situations and I don't worry about the nationality of a player, just his ability and character and whether he would fit into our team."

Liverpool, who recently sold central defender John Scalls to Spurs, could offer Jamie Red-

knapp in an exchange deal for Campbell and Francis has never denied his admiration for the talented midfielder.

"Liverpool wouldn't want to be heard talking about my players and I'm sure they wouldn't be happy about me talking about theirs, so I will pass on that," Francis said. "But Sol is not going anywhere and I've said many times that the story about Teddy telling me he wants to leave is nonsense. But again people go away and write other things."

Wimbledon's Norwegian midfielder Oyvind Leonhardsen has turned down the offer of a new four-year contract. "I don't want to stay at Wimbledon any longer than one more season," the 26-year-old Leonhardsen,

who is valued at £6m by the Dons, said.

The Leicester midfielder Neil Lennon has been charged with misconduct by the Football Association for allegedly making gestures to fans. Lennon reported to the police by Newcastle supporters for the gestures he was claimed to have made during Leicester's 2-0 win in October.

Brighton have banned supporters spokesman, Paul Samrah, from all home games for 20 months after the chief executive, David Bellotti, blamed him for leading protests and threats at the Goldstone Ground. Samrah, a prominent member of the Brighton Independent Supporters Association, is to seek legal advice.

Botham inspires final twist to Irani's injury

Cricket

MARK BALDWIN
reports from Harare

Ronnie Irani said yesterday he has Ian Botham to thank for starting the new year with renewed hope. The Essex all-rounder plays his first match since 15 December today, when England must beat Zimbabwe in Harare to prevent a one-day series defeat.

Mike Atherton, the England captain, plays in the match as well, despite his recent slump in batting form, with Graham Thorpe the batsman sacrificed to make way for both the all-rounders Irani and Craig White. Irani was in great pain from a back injury when England lost the opening one-day international by two wickets in Bulawayo 16 days ago. Within 24 hours he was being driven to Harare to have a bone scan and an injection into a "hot spot" in his lower back. After being told rest was the only initial cure, Irani admitted he thought his tour was over, especially when White was drafted in as cover for him.

However, slowly at first, he began to test out his bowling in the nets with Botham in attendance for most of the time. Irani

said: "Ian Botham has been inspirational. He had back problems in his career and he's helped me in slightly modifying my action. What I have tried to achieve is not to twist my back during my bowling action. If that happens I get pain, and in the first weeks of the tour I think I was trying too hard to impress."

"Working with Ian, and with David Lloyd and John Emburey, I have studied myself on video and now I feel great about an action in which I use my back and my physique to get pace and bounce. When I am bowling well I hit the seam regularly and in the nets it has been going so well that I have not felt I am putting any effort into it."

"Of course, I must now put everything into action during a match situation, but I am very confident and pleased to be back in the side."

Atherton, meanwhile, insisted yesterday that he had not considered dropping himself despite four form which has yielded just 153 runs in 11 innings. Thorpe, of course, returned from a similar bad run with 50 not out on Sunday in the second Test. The Surrey left-hander has been very much a fixture in England's one-day side in recent years.

A curt "no" was all Atherton

would say when asked if himself sitting out the match was considered as an option and the skipper would not comment at all about England's batting order. "We know what it is going to be, but we are not saying and you will all have to wait and see," said Atherton, who in the first one-day international against Zimbabwe batted at No 3 but made only 23 from 77 balls.

In his last 17 one-day innings Atherton has passed 30 only twice and there is a school of thought that regards his studious style of batting as out of date in the world of 50-over internationals, especially now that the first 15-over fielding restrictions make quick scoring at the top of the order essential.

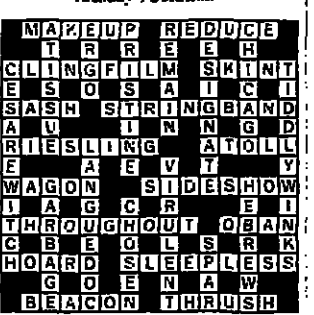
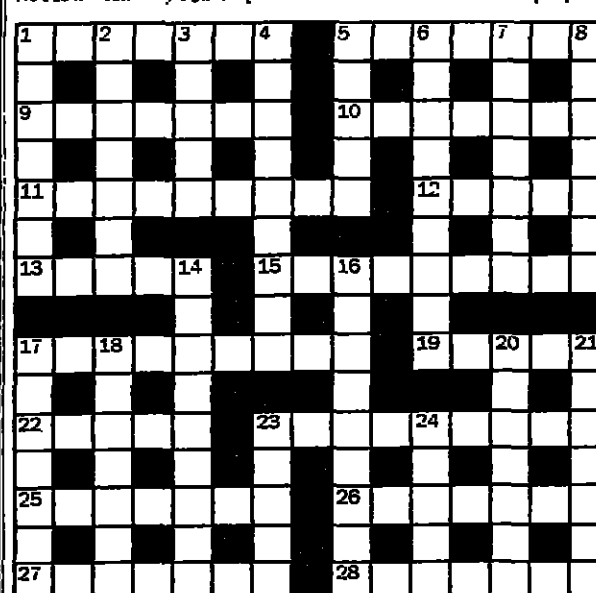
White and Irani will share fifth bowler duties, and England are in need of an uplifting New Year's Day performance. "We want to get back into the series in this game and then go on to win it 2-1 on Friday," Atherton said. "After that we look forward to New Zealand and on to the Ashes series against Australia next summer."

ENGLAND (for Second one-day international v Zimbabwe, Harare, today): N V Wright, A J Stewart (captain), M A Atherton (captain), N Hussain, J P Crawley, C White, R C Irem, R D B Croft, D Gough, C E W Swales, A D Murray.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No 3184, Wednesday 1 January

By Aquila



- ACROSS**
- 1 Reverential, beautiful rhyme (7)
 - 5 Attractive curio of Bible-thumper (Old Testament) (7)
 - 9 She will go to Bill in the finish (7)
 - 10 Circular letter from Greece (7)
 - 11 A tear in sheet from stock? (9)
 - 12 Composer to pitch tuning-note (5)
 - 13 State speed shown by immature insect (5)
 - 15 Did Forster use it for his famous passage? (6,3)
 - 17 Joyce's work, to name ships (9)
 - 19 Go beyond forty, say, in Rome (5)
 - 22 How a hooter sounds? (5)

- DOWN**
- 23 Wind-damaged Herts town (5-4)
 - 25 A loud van is an offence (7)
 - 26 Popular poetry is the opposite in effect (7)
 - 27 Ostentatious agent holds buffet (7)
 - 28 Waiters pouring scorn on Georgia? (7)
 - 1 Powder face with small shovel? (4-3)
 - 2 Difficult to prove, the more tricky it is (7)
 - 3 Look, hidden in marsh is a criminal! (5)
 - 4 Money-making cure, vital to develop (9)
 - 5 Expresses contempt audibly for alcoholic drink (5)
 - 6 Quick-action receptacle for documents (9)

- 7 Rhinestone sea-nymph heard? (7)
- 8 Strip taken from oak for a tanner? (7)
- 14 Next in time appears to take these objects (9)
- 16 Winning by depriving of weaponry (9)
- 17 Disclaimers involving opening of Easter Island (7)
- 18 One screened dwarf retiring? (7)
- 20 Toast hero - ice-breaker! (7)
- 21 Post calling for literary knowledge? (7)
- 23 Last pair in party, supporting teachers, must be insane (5)
- 24 Henry finished with see-saw? (5)

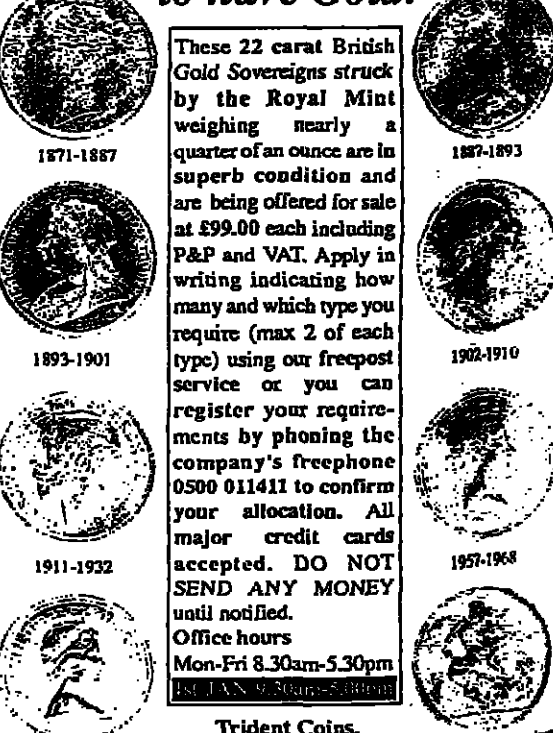
Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, 24 Albion Road, Walsford

Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 111968 641701

Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office

Original British Gold Sovereigns

It's good to have Gold!



These 22 carat British Gold Sovereigns struck by the Royal Mint weighing nearly a quarter of an ounce are in superb condition and are being offered for sale at £99.00 each including P&P and VAT. Apply in writing indicating how many and which type you require (max 2 of each type) using our freepost service or you can register your requirements by phoning the company's freephone 0800 011411 to confirm your allocation. All major credit cards accepted. DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY until notified. Office hours Mon-Fri 8.30am-5.30pm

Trident Coins, PO Box 335, Malden, Essex. Phone/Fax: 01621 891858

Please accept my application for (state number)

- Victoria Young Head 1871-1887
- Victoria Jubilee Head 1887-1893
- Victoria Old Head 1893-1901
- Edward VII 1902-1910
- George V 1911-1932
- Elizabeth II YH 1957-1968
- Elizabeth II MH 1974-1982
- Complete Set of Seven Sovereigns £672.00 (save £21.00)

Name _____ Address _____

Postcode _____

سكان من الامم